

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, October 22, 2015



Vice President Joe Biden and his wife Jill Biden, followed by President Barack Obama, walks to the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, where Biden announced that he will not run for the presidential nomination.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)
Page 4

Biden Won't Run For President, a Boost for Clinton

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Kerry seeks Mideast answers amid deteriorating conditions



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry participates in a forum at the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015, in Cambridge, Mass.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is confronted with two crises for which it has few, if any, viable options — the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Syrian civil war. The administration has ultimate goals for each crisis but no clear path to achieve them and Secretary of State John Kerry is jetting off to Europe and the Middle East to seek answers.

With only a broad outline of the desired results, Kerry will be listening as much as talking as he navigates attempts to restore relative calm in Israel and the Palestinian territories amid violence and spiraling tensions and revive efforts for a political transition in Syria that could end the increasingly complex war.

Kerry embarks on his latest round of high-stakes diplomacy on Wednesday when he leaves for Berlin,

where he will meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday, and then Vienna, where he will see the foreign ministers of Russia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia about Syria on Friday. He then plans to visit Amman, where he will meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah. A stop in Saudi Arabia is also envisioned.

Complicating his already delicate tasks, the situ-

tions in both hotspots took unexpected and potentially dangerous turns late Tuesday and Wednesday. Netanyahu blamed a former Palestinian leader for inspiring Hitler's Holocaust. Those comments, coupled with new Palestinian stabbing attacks on Israelis, threaten to further inflame the combustible atmosphere. And Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted Syrian President Bashar Assad in Moscow, suggesting that Putin's support for Assad's government will not wane. Although State Department spokesman John Kirby wouldn't criticize Netanyahu for incitement, he said of the Holocaust comments: "The scholarly evidence does not support that position." He took a similar constrained approach on Assad's trip to Russia, saying it was not surprising given the two countries' expanding military relationship.

U.S. officials have yet to detail any American plan to end the Israeli-Palestinian unrest that erupted a month ago over Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site. During that time, 10 Israelis have been killed by Palestinian assailants, mostly in knife attacks, while 47 Palestinians — including 26

labeled by Israel as attackers — have been killed by Israeli fire. The remainder died in clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian protesters. In addition, an Israeli mob killed an Eritrean migrant after mistaking him for an Arab attacker. The site in question is known to Jews as the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism and home to the biblical Temples. For Muslims, it is the Noble Sanctuary, home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam and a key national symbol for the Palestinians. The site, captured by Israel from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war, is a frequent flashpoint of violence. The Palestinians accuse Israel of trying to change the longstanding "status quo" at the site, which allows Jews to visit but not to pray. They point to a growing number of Jewish visitors who seek an expanded Jewish presence and prayer rights at the site. Netanyahu says there are no plans to change the status quo, and that the Palestinian allegations are slanderous incitement. He says the hostile rhetoric, and incendiary videos making the rounds on social media, are fueling the violence. □

Iran's supreme leader endorses landmark nuclear deal

ALI DAREINI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader on Wednesday endorsed a landmark nuclear deal reached with world powers, but warned the government to be vigilant, saying the United States cannot be trusted.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, endorsed the deal in a letter to moderate President Hassan Rouhani that was read on state TV. Until now he had declined to publicly approve or reject the deal while expressing support for Iran's negotiators. The agreement reached in July with the U.S., Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany would curb Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the lift-

ing of crippling international sanctions.

Western nations have long suspected Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons alongside its civilian program, charges rejected by Tehran, which insists its program is entirely peaceful. The agreement has been the subject of fierce debate within Iran, with hard-liners arguing that the negotiators gave up too much ground. They also fear the agreement could lead to a broader rapprochement with the United States, which they still deride as the "Great Satan."

Iran's parliament approved the deal in two stormy sessions that saw lawmakers shout at one another and at least one hard-line parliamentarian burst into tears. □



In this picture released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in Tehran, Iran. Khamenei on Wednesday endorsed a landmark nuclear deal reached with world powers, but warned the government to be vigilant,

(Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader via AP)

Assad-Putin meeting signals new push to end Syria crisis

NATALIYA VASILYeva

ALBERT AJI

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Bashar Assad's surprise meeting with Vladimir Putin could signal that Russia ultimately seeks a political settlement after weeks of heavy airstrikes in Syria. But the terms of such an arrangement are uncertain, and questions remain about whether Moscow will seek the departure of its longtime ally or try for a power-sharing agreement.

In a further sign that a diplomatic push might be underway to end the four-year crisis, Russia announced Wednesday that Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had agreed to meet Friday in Vienna with their counterparts from Saudi Arabia and Turkey — both firm Assad critics.

The Syrian president's visit to Moscow, his first known trip abroad since war broke out in 2011, was announced on Wednesday, the morning after it happened, and raised intense speculation about the two leaders' motives — and a strong response from Washington.

"We view the red-carpet welcome for Assad, who has used chemical weapons against his own people, at odds with the stated goal by the Russians for a political transition in Syria," said White House spokesman Eric Schultz.

If nothing else, it underscored how emboldened the embattled Syrian leader has become in the wake of the Russian airstrikes that began on Sept. 30 and Iran's deployment of hundreds of ground forces to fight alongside Syrian government troops.

Russia says it is targeting militants, especially those of the extremist Islamic State group. But critics, including the U.S., say Moscow's military intervention props up Assad and is likely to fan the violence.

The oblique references Wednesday by both leaders to their meeting did little

to shed light on their ultimate strategy.

In a statement, Putin said that along with fighting militants, Moscow believes that "a long-term settlement can only be achieved as part of a political process with the participation of all political forces, ethnic and religious groups."

In separate comments posted on the Syrian presidency's official Facebook page, Assad said the Russian military operation in Syria had helped to halt the spread of terrorism and that a political solution could only come after that threat was addressed.

"Terrorism which we see spreading today could have been more widespread and more harmful if it weren't for your decisions and steps," Assad told Putin in the remarks carried by Arab media. The threat of terrorism, he said, "obstructs" any political solution to the crisis.

Yet how long Russia is willing to continue its expensive and politically volatile airstrikes is open to question.

"Putin is not going to fight there forever," said analyst Dmitry Trenin of the Moscow Carnegie Center.

The Russian leader "needs a quick result after which he can announce a Russian military success," said Trenin, suggesting Russia would then put "the burden of the war" on Iran and Hezbollah.

"For Putin, it's important now to act not only as a military victor but as a political peacekeeper as well," Trenin said. "Putin is perfectly aware of the fact that Assad is going to have to hand over power or divide it. The Syria that existed before 2011 cannot be restored."

Others, however, said that in welcoming Assad, Putin was signaling that Russia would be uncompromising about Assad staying in power.

"It's a serious statement meaning that Russia will continue to support Assad to the bitter end," said Pavel Felgenhauer, an in-

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Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, shakes hand with Syria President Bashar Assad in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia. Assad has traveled to Moscow in his first known trip abroad since the war broke out in Syria in 2011 to meet his strongest ally Russian leader Vladimir Putin, Syrian and Russian media reported Wednesday.

(Alexei Druzhinin, RIA-Novosti / via AP)

dependent Russian military analyst. "There will be no political settlement in the

sense that the West sees it. The opposition must surrender and stop fighting Assad and join him, and that is going to be the political solution." □

Biden Won't Run For President, a Boost for Clinton

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of tortured indecision, Vice President Joe Biden said Wednesday he won't be a candidate in the 2016 White House campaign, solidifying Hillary Rodham Clinton's status as the Democratic front-runner and the party's likely heir to President Barack Obama's legacy.

Standing under bright sun in the White House Rose Garden, Biden spoke movingly about mourning the recent death of his son, Beau, a process he said does not match the political calendar. While he said his family was emotionally prepared to undertake a grueling presidential campaign, they arrived at that

decision too late for him to mount a credible bid for a job that has long been the north star of his political ambitions.

"Unfortunately, I believe we're out of time," said Biden, flanked by his wife, Jill, and the president.

Biden's decision puts to rest the uncertainty hanging over the Democratic primary. The race now will likely settle into a two-person contest between Clinton and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has energized the party's liberal base but lacks Clinton's campaign infrastructure and support from party leaders.

Biden was seen by some Democrats as an ideal blend of Clinton's establishment credentials and



Vice President Joe Biden, with President Barack Obama, gestures as he speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, to announce that he will not run for the presidential nomination.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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Sanders' populist appeal. Interest in his potential candidacy was fueled both by an outpouring of affection after his son succumbed to cancer in May and the persistent questions about Clinton's viability, particularly amid revelations about her controversial email use at the State Department.

However, Clinton appeared to calm nervous supporters with a commanding performance in last week's first Democratic debate. What was already a narrow path to the presidency for Biden appeared to get even smaller.

In a written statement Wednesday, Clinton praised Biden's "unyielding faith in America's promise" and said she expected he would "always be on the front lines, always fighting for all of us." The two spoke by phone shortly after the vice president concluded his remarks.

Biden notably did not endorse a candidate in the Democratic race. Instead, he delivered a 13-minute speech that very well could have been a platform for the campaign he'll never run. He decried the role of big money in politics and touted the importance of reducing income inequality and making college education more accessible, issues with significant sup-

port among liberals. He also repeated a veiled criticism of Clinton that had crept into his speeches in recent days, saying Democrats should not view Republicans as their enemies. Clinton said in the debate that she was proud to count the Republicans among the enemies she's made during her political career.

Biden's decision gives Clinton a boost heading into her testimony Thursday before a Republican-led House committee investigating the deadly attack on Americans in Benghazi, Libya, three years ago. With Biden out of the race, Clinton's campaign sees the hearing as a final hurdle before she can fully focus on early voting contests in the states of Iowa, New Hampshire and elsewhere.

For many Republicans, Biden's decision comes as a disappointment. Party leaders had all but cheered his potential candidacy, eager to see the Democratic race thrown into chaos and perhaps distract attention from a Republican primary that's been roiled by the rise of unorthodox candidates such as Donald Trump and Ben Carson.

Trump praised Biden and took a poke at Clinton in a single tweet: □



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Fractious House conservatives resist Ryan's call to unify



Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., arrives for a House GOP conference meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015. Ryan is seeking unity in a place it's rarely found, telling House Republicans he will serve as their speaker only if they embrace him by week's end as their consensus candidate.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Party conservatives resisted Paul Ryan's appeals to rally around him for House speaker Wednesday, suggesting fresh trouble ahead for the inter-party struggle that has rendered Congress almost dysfunctional and shaken

the party's presidential campaign. The conservatives' reactions cast doubt on whether Ryan, the party's 2012 vice presidential nominee, can get the buy-in from all factions of the House he says he needs to run for speaker, the top position in

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Congress and the second in line of succession to the president. The Wisconsin congressman, a reluctant candidate for the post, has been asked to run by mainstream party leaders seeking to resolve a crisis set in motion when compromise-averse

conservatives pushed Speaker John Boehner to resign and then pressured his likely successor into withdrawing.

The same intraparty divide is roiling the Republicans' presidential campaign, with outsiders led by billionaire businessman Donald Trump dominating the field for months.

On Wednesday, some House members quickly took issue with Ryan's suggested changes to congressional rules and even his desire to balance family life with the demands of the job. "No other speaker candidate came in and said here's the list of my demands, either meet those or I'm not going to do this," Rep. Tim Huelskamp, a member of the hardline House Freedom Caucus, complained the day after Ryan outlined the conditions for his candidacy.

Rep. Raul Labrador of Idaho, another Freedom Caucus member, said: "I think it's pretty presumptuous to say that Paul Ryan is the only one who can win this." The comments came as

Ryan began making the rounds to the three major House caucuses whose endorsements he is seeking as a condition for running for speaker. It's a job the 45-year-old never wanted but is exploring, he says, out of a sense of duty after Boehner announced his resignation and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy abruptly withdrew from the running to replace him.

Ryan has made clear that he does not want to be the latest victim of Republican dysfunction and will run only if it becomes clear he can unify the House Republicans.

Boehner, who hopes to leave Congress at the end of this month, sought to move the process forward, scheduling secret-ballot House Republican elections for Oct. 28, to be followed by a floor vote in the full House the next day.

On Wednesday Ryan met with the mainstream conservative Republican Study Committee, and he was to meet on Thursday with the establishment-aligned Tuesday Group. □

House Republican floats debt limit alternatives

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington is barreling toward a deadline to raise the government's borrowing cap and avert a first-ever default on U.S. payments, but there's no sign yet on Capitol Hill of a viable solution. Instead, the Republican-controlled House is moving ahead on tea party-blessed legislation related to the debt limit that has no chance of making it through the Senate, much less of being signed by President Barack Obama.

Credit markets are already nervous about the lack of progress as a Nov. 3 Treasury Department deadline looms. That's when the government's ability to use accounting steps to pay its bills for veterans, Social Security recipients, federal employees and others will run out and the government would have a dangerously small fiscal cushion.

"There is no margin for error," Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said Wednesday at a conference sponsored by the Center for American Progress. "After Nov. 3, we

cannot borrow any more money. We will be operating on a cash basis. Some days we will have enough cash to pay our bills. Other days we won't. Going past Nov. 3 is irresponsible."

The House on Wednesday passed, 235-194, legislation by Republican Rep. Tom McClintock that would require the government to pay its creditors and Social Security beneficiaries first and exempt those payments from the debt limit if the government runs out of cash. The idea is to preserve the "full faith and credit" of

the government, even if there is a fiscal standoff.

"If there is ever any doubt over the security and reliability of the debt owed by this government, the interest rates that lenders change would quickly rise and overwhelm us," McClintock said.

The White House promises that Obama would veto the bill, which Democrats like Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada have dubbed the "Pay China First Act" since debt payments would get preference over other obligations like salaries for fed-

eral workers and the military, Medicare payments to providers, and medical care for veterans and the poor. And, while Treasury says government payment systems can prioritize debt obligations over other payments, its systems are not built to allow prioritization of payments like Social Security over all others.

"Treasury's payment systems are designed to pay our bills — they were not designed to not pay our bills," Treasury spokesman Daniel Watson said in a blog post last week. □

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FILE - Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, right, with CIA Director John Brennan, center, and FBI Director James Comey, left, testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015, before the House Intelligence Committee hearing on cyber threats.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, FILE)

WikiLeaks publishes CIA director's emails

KEN DILANIAN
STEPHEN BRAUN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The WikiLeaks organization posted material Wednesday from what appears to be CIA Director John Brennan's personal email account, including a draft security clearance application containing personal information. The material presumably was taken in a compromise of Brennan's email account by a hacker who told The New York Post he is a high school student protesting American foreign policy. The hacker claimed he posed as a Verizon employee and tricked another employee into revealing Brennan's personal information. Brennan was seeking a security clearance while applying for a job as White House counterterrorism adviser. It was not immediately clear whether any national security information was compromised in the release of the clearance application, which includes his wife's Social

Security number and the names of people Brennan worked with over a long prior career at the CIA. A CIA statement called the postings a "crime."

"The Brennan family is the victim," the agency said in an unattributed statement, in keeping with agency policy. "This attack is something that could happen to anyone and should be condemned, not promoted. There is no indication that any the documents released thus far are classified. In fact, they appear to be documents that a private citizen with national security interests and expertise would be expected to possess."

The documents all date from before 2009, when Brennan joined the White House staff; before that, he was working in the private sector. Aside from the partially completed clearance application, none of the documents appears to be sensitive.

In a section of his security clearance application covering foreign contacts,

Brennan writes that in August 2007: "I have had lunch twice and dinner once with Alan Lovell, a U.K. colleague with whom I worked closely during the last three years of my government career. Alan is currently posted at the U.K. Embassy in Washington."

Brennan's "government career" to that point consisted of decades at the CIA. It's not clear what Lovell's role was at the British Embassy. The State Department in 2009 listed Lovell as a "counselor" in the British Embassy. His LinkedIn profile currently lists him as working at the British Ministry of Defense.

The documents include a partially written position paper on the future of intelligence, a memo on Iran, a paper from a Republican lawmaker on CIA interrogations and a summary of a contract dispute between the CIA and Brennan's private company, the Analysis Corporation, which had filed a formal protest after losing a contract dealing with terrorist watch lists. □

U.S. Secret Service is allowed to use warrantless phone tracking

MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new policy allows the U.S. Secret Service to use intrusive cellphone-tracking technology without a warrant if there's believed to be a nonspecific threat to the president or another protected person. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Seth M. Stodder described to a House of Representatives subcommittee Wednesday the department's policy on the use of cell-site simulators.

Civil libertarians and privacy advocates have long expressed concern about the suitcase-size devices, known as Stingrays, which mimic cell-towers to scoop up electronic data that can be used to locate nearby phones and identify their owners. The devices don't listen in to phone calls or capture text messages, Stodder said.

The policy the department unveiled this week is similar to the one announced in September by the Justice Department, which includes the FBI.

Federal law enforcement officers are required to get a warrant signed by a judge before using Stingrays, except under emergency "exigent circumstances" meeting the constitutional standard for probable cause under the Fourth Amendment, but when there is no time to get a warrant.

Stodder cited the example of kidnappings, such as a recent case where Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers used a Stingray to help locate and rescue a 6-year-old

girl being held hostage by human smugglers in Arizona.

But Stodder said another allowed exception under the policy would let the Secret Service use Stingrays in "exceptional circumstances" without meeting the legal threshold for probable cause. In such cases, using the devices would require direct approval from "executive-level personnel" at Secret Service headquarters and the U.S. attorney for the relevant jurisdiction.

Asked whether that essentially granted a blanket exception for the Secret Service, Stodder said that the exemption would not be used in routine criminal probes, such as a counterfeiting investigation.

"The key exception that we envision is the Secret Service's protective mission," Stodder said. "In certain circumstances where you could have an immediate threat to the president and you have cryptic information, our conclusion in drawing the line between secrecy and privacy here is to err on the side of protection."

Stodder added that such information could be "a cryptic email or something like that" indicating a security threat to the president where agents would lack the time or the information to determine probable cause, "but you need to locate that person."

Cell-site simulators have been used for years by both state and federal law enforcement agencies, who tout them as a vital tool to catch fugitives and locate suspects. □

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Career criminal arrested in slaying of NYC police officer



Flowers were left at a makeshift memorial to honor New York City Police Department Officer Randolph Holder outside the police station in New York, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015. Holder, a five-year veteran of the NYPD, was shot dead Tuesday night during an exchange of gunfire in East Harlem.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — career criminal accused of killing a police officer had been released from a U.S. jail into a drug diversion program and was wanted in a shooting last month, said Police Commissioner William Bratton, noting that the suspect had shown an increasing level of violence and shouldn't have been on the streets.

Tyrone Howard is expected to be charged with fatally shooting New York Police Department Officer Randolph Holder during a gunfight Tuesday night on a pedestrian bridge leading to the East River after stealing a bike.

He was arrested in October 2014 along with 18 other people and charged with

selling crack cocaine at an East Harlem public housing complex. But Bratton said Howard was released into a drug diversion program, which is meant to keep drug offenders from overcrowding the city's jails.

"If ever there was a candidate not to be diverted, it would be this guy," Bratton said. "There are people in our society who are criminals, who are violent criminals ... who should be separated from the rest of society." But court officials said Howard qualified for the program because he was charged with selling and possessing drugs and was addicted.

"Actually, he's the perfect candidate in many ways," state court system spokesman David Bookstaver told The Associated Press.

Howard pleaded guilty to the drug charge this May and was ordered to attend monthly status meetings, but he stopped attending those Aug. 21. An arrest warrant was issued Sept. 17.

The 30-year-old had been

arrested 28 times since he was 13 for offenses including drug possession and robbery, authorities said. He's been sentenced to state prison twice since 2007 on drug possession and sale convictions, state records show. Howard was arrested in connection with a June 2009 shooting that left an 11-year-old with a gunshot wound to the leg

and a 78-year-old grazed by a bullet, according to police. The disposition of that case wasn't immediately clear.

Howard had also been wanted in connection with the Sept. 1 shooting of a gang member, said James O'Neill, the NYPD's chief of department. He skipped court appearances and police couldn't track him

down, O'Neill said. Police said officers had attempted to locate Howard 10 times since the shooting.

Charges against Howard in Holder's shooting were pending. It was unclear if he had a lawyer.

Holder was the second NYPD officer killed this year and the fourth slain in the past 11 months, Bratton said. □

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Israel's Netanyahu heads to Berlin to meet with Kerry



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looks into binoculars as he visits a military outpost on the outskirts of the Gaza Strip. With no end in sight to weeks of Israeli-Palestinian violence, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to Germany on Wednesday as part of a high-profile diplomatic push to restore calm.

(Haim Horenstein/Pool Photo via AP)

JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — With no end in sight to weeks of Israeli-Palestinian violence, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to Germany on Wednesday as part of a high-profile diplomatic push to restore calm. The trip, which included a meeting with German

Chancellor Angela Merkel and talks with U.S. Secretary state John Kerry on Thursday, came on a day of new Palestinian attacks in the West Bank. Israeli officials said a female Israeli soldier was stabbed and seriously wounded by a Palestinian man who was shot dead, while late Wednesday, the army

said a Palestinian motorist wounded four Israelis in a hit and run in the southern West Bank. Meanwhile, Israeli troops shot and wounded a 14-year-old Palestinian girl whom they said was carrying a knife and trying to infiltrate a Jewish settlement. It remains unclear whether the diplomatic push will be

able to succeed. The Israeli and Palestinian leaders have vast differences over the causes of the violence. It also is unclear whether anyone can rein in the attackers, who have been young "lone-wolf" Palestinians, often in their teens, acting on their own. At a news conference with Merkel, Netanyahu reiterated his belief that Palestinian incitement has fueled the unrest. He pointed to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' refusal to condemn attacks on Israelis and accusations that Israel is changing delicate prayer arrangements at Jerusalem's holiest site.

Netanyahu called the claims false. "It is very clear to us that incitement leads to terror," he said. "The international community must demand that President Abbas stop the incitement and stop spreading the lies about the Jewish state and about Israel's policies." The unrest began last month after clashes erupted at the holy site — a hilltop Old City compound revered by Jews and Muslims. Jews call the compound the Temple Mount, the holiest site in

Judaism and home to the biblical Temples. Muslims call it the Noble Sanctuary, and today it houses the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third-holiest site and an important Palestinian national symbol.

Israel captured the site, along with the rest of east Jerusalem and the West Bank, from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war. Under a "status quo" arrangement, Jews are permitted to visit but not pray in the compound. While Netanyahu says Israel is committed to preserving the status quo, Palestinians point to a growing number of Jewish visitors, including Israeli officials, who seek prayer rights and an expanded presence on the mount as evidence of Israeli encroachment.

During the past month, 10 Israelis have been killed by Palestinian assailants, mostly in knife attacks, while at least 47 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire. Twenty-six of the Palestinians have been labeled by Israel as attackers, with the remainder killed in clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian protesters. □

Syrian Kurds form new administration in semi-autonomous area

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's Kurds have expanded their semi-autonomous region in northern Syria, announcing Wednesday a new administration in a majority Sunni-Arab town they seized from the Islamic State group this summer.

The announcement falls short of declaring Tal Abyad a separate region, but prepares it for such a step if the current experiment is successful, said Kurdish official Omar Alloush, who is

part of the umbrella group administering the Kurdish semi-autonomous region. Syria's Kurds, the country's largest ethnic minority group long ostracized under the central government, declared a semi-autonomous administration in 2013 made up of three largely Kurdish regions, or cantons, in Afrin, Jazeera and Kobani. They refer to their overall autonomous region as Rojava, meaning "west" in Kurdish. The Arab majority town Tal Abyad was captured

by the Kurdish fighters in June, expelling the Islamic State group. The expulsion dealt a major blow to the IS group's abilities, cutting off a vital supply line to its self-proclaimed capital, Raqqa and depriving it of a strategic avenue for cross-border smuggling.

But many, including rights groups, accused the Kurds of displacing the town's majority Arab population. The U.N. refugee agency at the time said the Kurdish advance caused the displacement of about

23,000 people who fled the fighting to Turkey. Amnesty International accused the Kurdish authorities of intentionally displacing thousands of Arab residents later, some in retaliation for perceived support to IS — charges that the Kurds denied.

Alloush said the new administration of Tal Abyad is largely made up of Arabs; the ruling council will consist of six Arabs, two Kurds and one Turkman.

Tal Abyad will fall under the Kobani administrative

region for now, but Alloush said if the experiment was successful, it could become its own fourth semi-autonomous region.

"The importance of this step is that Tal Abyad has agreed to be part of the project of self-administration, the political project in Rojava," Alloush told The Associated Press.

He said the area doesn't yet qualify as a separate fourth region because it lacks the resources and an independent police force. □



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Vatican denies pope is in ill health after media reports

NICOLE WINFIELD

DANIELA PETROFF

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The

Vatican on Wednesday denied Pope Francis is in ill health, saying his head is "absolutely perfect" after an Italian newspaper reported he has a small, curable brain tumor. The Japanese brain cancer specialist identified in the report as having made the diagnosis denied having ever examined the pontiff. The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the report in the National Daily was "completely unfounded and seriously irresponsible," as well as "absolutely inexcusable and unconscionable." The Vatican newspaper suggested the timing of the publication smacked of an attempt to manipulate the outcome of a hotly contested meeting on family issues at the Vatican. Citing unnamed nursing sources, the National Daily said the 78-year-old pope had been examined by a Japanese brain cancer specialist, Dr. Takanori Fukushima, who determined that the small dark spot on Francis' brain was a tumor that could be treated without surgery. It said Fukushima had traveled to the Vatican from a clinic in Pisa to examine the pope.

The ANSA news agency, citing unnamed sources in Pisa, said Fukushima traveled to the Vatican in January and diagnosed the pope then.

In a statement issued late Wednesday by Duke University in North Carolina, Fukushima said: "I have never medically examined the pope. These sto-

ries are completely false." Lombardi dismissed the reports to journalists Wednesday, issuing three separate and increasingly exasperated denials as the day wore on and after consulting with the pope himself, who appeared in fine form during his weekly general audience. Lombardi said no Japanese doctor had visited the pope, the pope had not traveled to Pisa for treatment, that no helicopters had landed in the Vatican from the outside and that no tests as described in the newspaper had been performed on the pope.

However, he didn't specifically deny that the pope had a brain tumor, issuing only specific denials about irrelevant details such as helicopter trips.

"I can confirm that the pope is in good health," Lombardi said. "If you were in the piazza this morning you would have seen that as well. And if you go on the trips with him, you know he has a small problem with his legs, but his head is absolutely perfect."

The newspaper's editor, Andrea Cangini, said he stood by the story. In an interview with The Associated Press, he said the newspaper worked for months to cross-check the information with various sources from different places, and that there was "not the minimum doubt" that it was true. Without going into details about Francis' medical chart, Cangini said the tumor is small, can be treated pharmacologically and is in an area of the brain that isn't difficult to work around. □



A plume of smoke rises from a camp for migrants near Slovenia's border with Croatia, in Brezice, Slovenia, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015. It was not clear what caused the fire that has broken out in the camp which is housing thousands of migrants, including women and children.

(AP Photo/Matej Leskovsek)

Angry migrants burn tents in Slovenia

AMER COHADZIC

Associated Press

BREZICE, Slovenia (AP) —

After too many days and nights stuck outside in the rain and cold, tempers are fraying among the tens of thousands of migrants trying to get through the Balkans to the heart of Europe. A fire at the main refugee camp on Slovenia's border with Croatia destroyed a dozen lime green army-issue tents Wednesday as scores of mostly young male migrants nearby chanted, "Let us go! Let us go!" While the government said it was still investigating the cause, police at the scene told The Associated Press that migrants had set a stack of UNHCR-supplied blankets deliberately on fire to protest conditions in the camp on the outskirts of Brezice.

Many of those demanding to leave the Slovenian border town for Austria, Germany and other European Union nations to

the north had waded the previous night through the Sutla River, which marks the border between Slovenia and Croatia, in frigid conditions made worse by their soaked clothes. Sometimes in the pitch dark, at other times aided by light from a police helicopter's searchlight, more than 1,000 souls strode chest-deep into the muddy waters on the Croatian side and struggled up the muddy embankment into Slovenia.

Many migrants from the Middle East, Asia and Africa expressed bewilderment and disappointment because they had been told as they began their journeys in Turkey that the hard part would end once they reached EU countries like Croatia and Slovenia. Many had expected other countries to permit them free passage to wealthier western countries, particularly Germany, that they hope to make home.

"I am sorry for Europe," said

Ari Omar, an Iraqi, who was resting in a Slovenian pasture a few hundred meters (yards) from the border with Croatia. "We did not think Europe is like this: no respect for refugees, not treating us with dignity. Why is Europe like this?"

More than 21,500 people have crossed that frontier in the five days since Hungary — the previous favored EU entry point for migrants crossing the Balkans — closed its borders with Croatia and forced the human tide further west into Slovenia. This Alpine country of barely 2 million says it cannot cope with the volume of human traffic and is appealing for EU financial and security aid. Lawmakers passed an emergency bill permitting Slovenia's military to operate more freely along the border, and more than 200 troops were deployed Wednesday in armored personnel carriers at several crossing points and camps. □

Xi inks nuclear power deal as UK seeks Chinese investment

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain will be China's "partner of choice" in the West, Prime Minister David Cameron declared Wednesday, as China demonstrated its commitment by putting down a 6 billion-pound (\$9.3 billion) stake in the U.K.'s first nuclear power plant since the 1980s.

Chinese President Xi Jinping signed the nuclear agreement on the second day of a four-day visit that has seen the two countries agree more than 30 billion pounds (\$46 billion) in business deals.

Cameron said the "historic agreement" would create 25,000 jobs and eventually provide power to 6 million homes. But the nuclear deal is a focal point for critics who accuse Cameron of wooing the Chinese for trade deals while ignoring the country's human rights record.

At a joint news conference at 10 Downing St., Xi said China "attaches great importance to the protection of human rights."

"Looking around the world, there is always room for improvement," he said.

Cameron said a strong economic relationship could withstand frank disagreements on some other issues. "The stronger the relationship between our countries, the more we'll be able to have a serious dialogue," Cameron said. "We

may not always agree, but we can discuss issues openly and constructively." The nuclear deal will see the new Hinckley Point plant in southwest England built jointly by Electricite de

majority Chinese-owned. The deal must be approved by both companies' boards. EDF said it anticipated a "final investment decision" within weeks. Some in Britain worry about

turn off the lights from some remote location."

Others questioned the economics of the nuclear agreement. The British government agreed to underwrite 2 billion pounds (\$3.1



China's President Xi Jinping, left, shakes hands with Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, during a joint press conference in 10 Downing Street, London, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, on the second day of his state visit to the UK. China's state visit to Britain moved from warm toasts and ceremony to cold, hard cash Wednesday, with business deals including a major Chinese investment in the U.K.'s first nuclear power station since the 1980s.

(Suzanne Plunkett /Pool Photo via AP)

France and China's state-owned China General Nuclear Power Corporation. EDF said Wednesday that it would take a 66.5 percent share in the 18 billion-pound (\$28 billion) plant and CGN 33.5 percent. The two firms also agreed to develop two further nuclear power stations in southeast England — one of which would be Chinese-designed and

letting an undemocratic emerging superpower with powerful espionage capabilities access to Britain's critical infrastructure.

"It won't be the physical security that matters, but the cybersecurity," said Alan Woodward, visiting professor of computing at the University of Surrey. "We don't want a foreign power being able to quite literally

billion) in Chinese financing to secure the deal and has guaranteed the plant's owners a minimum power price for 35 years.

Xi has been welcomed with lavish ceremony on his visit, which began Tuesday with a day of pomp that included an address to Parliament by Xi and a banquet at Buckingham Palace during which Kate, the Duch-

ess of Cambridge, toasted the Chinese leader.

Kate and her husband Prince William accompanied Xi again Wednesday at an event celebrating Britain's creative and technology industries. Xi viewed innovative examples of U.K.-Chinese collaboration, including low-emission versions of a London black cab, a red London bus and James Bond's favored Aston Martin car — all due to be developed through deals between the two countries. He also met some members of the team behind hit British TV exports "Sherlock" and "Poldark," and action star Jackie Chan.

Not everyone in Britain has welcomed the government's charm offensive toward China. Xi's visit has drawn protests from human rights and pro-Tibet groups — though they have been outnumbered by Chinese flag-waving pro-Xi crowds. Steve Hilton, a former close adviser to Cameron, called the visit "one of the worst national humiliations we've seen." "I think that we have to be much tougher," he told the BBC.

"I think that we should consider sanctions on China, not rolling out the red carpet."

Opposition politicians and trade unionists also have urged Cameron to stand up to Xi over what they see as unfair Chinese commercial competition. □

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Spanish police raid Catalan party's offices

CIARAN GILES

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spanish police arrested eight people in raids in Catalonia on Wednesday as part of a corruption and fraud investigation involving the northeastern region's acting ruling party. A civil guard spokesman said the treasurer of the Convergence party, Andreu Viloca, as well as the head of the region's public works department and six business directors were arrested Wednesday. He said 23 offices, including Convergence's

headquarters, were raided. He spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with police regulations. The investigation, which has been going on for several years, follows allegations by prosecutors that the party charged businesses commission in exchange for public works projects. Convergence is at the center of the region's push for independence from Spain. The arrests came as Convergence party leader and acting regional government President Artur Mas signed an act permitting

the formation on Oct. 26 of a new regional parliament following elections last month. "They won't find anything because there is nothing illegal in those projects," Mas said of the raids. He said both he and his party were the "targets of a hunt" that was not unrelated to the political situation in Catalonia.

Mas is under investigation for possible grave disobedience for his role in staging a symbolic referendum on secession from Spain last year after the Constitutional Court suspended it. □

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Argentines' fear of change gives ruling party election boost

P. PRENGAMAN
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Nora Beatriz Diaz says her choice for president in Sunday's election was essentially decided six years ago, when she was hired by a government jobs program.

Now 55, the mother of two struggled for years to make ends meet.

But through the "Argentina Works" program created by Cristina Fernandez's government, Diaz got a job cleaning and doing light construction.

"If I lose this job, I'll go back to zero," Diaz said of her \$275-a-month salary. "This government has to stay in power."

That attitude helps explain why Fernandez hand-picked successor, Daniel Scioli, is leading in the polls despite the country's many hardships: rampant inflation, a stagnant economy and a battle with creditors that has made Argentina an international financial pariah.

Diaz is among the estimated 30 percent of voters who political analysts say

form the core of Kirchnerismo, the political movement of Fernandez and her late husband and predecessor, Nestor Kirchner. The couple's supporters credit them with lifting the economy after a devastating 2001-2002 financial crisis while also providing a lifeline to the poor.

Today, an estimated 15 million Argentines, or about 35 percent of the population, receive some kind of direct financial assistance from the government, according to researchers at the Catholic University of Argentina.

The programs are so popular that leading opposition candidate Mauricio Macri, the mayor of Buenos Aires, felt compelled to tailor his campaign to take them into consideration.

Macri initially ran a pro-market campaign, promising to battle corruption and liberalize Argentina's protectionist economy. But with his poll numbers sagging, Macri in recent months has talked about achieving "zero poverty" and promised to maintain and even increase some



Nora Beatriz Diaz stands outside her home in Hurlingham in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

social spending. Scioli was leading in a half-dozen private polls published over the past week, but the race is tight. In one poll, by Ricardo Rouvier and Associates, 40.1 percent of respondents said they would vote for Scioli compared to 29.2 percent for Macri. Another 21.6 percent said they would vote for Sergio Massa, a former Fernandez

loyalist who broke ranks to form his own party. The survey interviewed 1,200 people by phone Oct. 2-15 and had a margin of error of 2.8 percentage points.

To win in the first round, a candidate must get at least 45 percent of the votes, or 40 percent and a 10 percent spread over the nearest competitor. If not, there will be a runoff between top two candidates

on Nov. 22. While the country's economy is limping and inflation runs at about 30 percent, for Argentines, the reference point for a worst-case scenario is the financial meltdown of 2001 that plunged millions of members of the middle class into poverty.

Continued on page 27

Venezuela president vows to tighten price controls

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro is vowing to expand price controls in a bid to battle rampant inflation.

Maduro said Tuesday he will increase enforcement of rules that limit the profit retailers can make. He also said he would expand price controls to all goods and services, and said no profit margin should exceed 30 percent.

He did not provide details about how the new system would be put in place. Critics blame existing price controls for increasing shortages in the country, partly because many businesses say they cannot cover costs without getting a government-subsidized exchange rate, and that can be hard to obtain at a time when falling oil prices have squeezed government revenues.

The plummeting free market value of Venezuela's currency, the bolivar, makes it hard to import goods independently.

Prices are currently regulated products ranging from pantry staples to Barbie dolls. Meanwhile, Venezuela's socialist party-controlled Congress made a formal request on Wednesday for an investigation into the head of the country's largest private company,

the food supplier Empresas Polar.

Congress President Diosdado Cabello released a recording last week of billionaire Polar CEO Lorenzo Mendoza speaking with an economist on the phone about the possibility of an international bailout of Venezuela's sinking economy.

Mendoza, who has often come in for attack from leading government offi-

cials, suggested in the call that the International Monetary Fund could create an adjustment plan for the country.

Mendoza has confirmed that the telephone conversation was real, but denounced its secret recording and later distribution. He denied charges that he is conspiring against the government.

Maduro on Sunday joined in calls for his prosecution. □

Haiti officials to support peaceful election

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— About a dozen top Haitian officials appeared on state television Wednesday

citizens that the weekend balloting will be held as scheduled and voters will be respected.

"Everybody prepare to go vote, there will be elec-

ter voting was supposed to start at dawn that day.

In some districts, voters grew exasperated after being told they couldn't vote because their names

ity will be in place so that everybody can come out and vote in peace," Opont asserted, adding that he's confident that all of country's roughly 13,700 voting centers will be open at 6 a.m. sharp as scheduled.

When a Haitian journalist asked him about the chronic allegation of biased tallies at tabulation centers and an overall lack of transparency,

Opont said the electoral council would put out a statement about their "methods" of tallying votes at some point after the Oct. 25 contest.

Calm and transparent elections are a tall order in Haiti and many Haitians are skeptical of the fairness of the electoral process, given the country's recent history of tumultuous or just plain messy votes.

The Provisional Electoral Council has repeatedly been criticized for votes plagued by disorganization, ballot irregularities and fraud allegations.

In 2006, a former electoral council chief was forced to flee the country after he was accused of trying to manipulate results and attackers looted and burned his farmhouse.

But Haitian citizens like Derosier Amos, a university student in agricultural science, said voters are determined to make their voices heard Sunday.

"I'm going to vote no matter what because I think it is my responsibility as a citizen," he said outside his Port-au-Prince school. □



People caravan on motorcycles campaigning for presidential candidate Steeve Khawly, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. "Whatever the leader tells us to do, we will do. If he tells us to take to the streets and mobilize, we will do that. If he says be calm, we will be calm," said Khawly campaigner Frantzdy Thomas. His friends nodded their heads in agreement.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

day in an effort to reassure anxious voters that they will keep their promises of organized, fair and peaceful elections this weekend.

The prime minister, various Cabinet members, the police chief and the elections director spoke on the national broadcast about preparations for Sunday elections that will see Haitians casting ballots for president, Parliament and local offices.

Looking directly into a TV camera, Prime Minister Evans Paul told Haitians

tions," Paul said, adding that "a lot of money has been spent, a lot of energy has gone into" getting ready for this year's three-round electoral cycle.

Widespread delays and disorder troubled the first round of legislative elections on Aug. 9.

That balloting was billed as a crucial test of the country's electoral system ahead of the first-round presidential vote this weekend.

Numerous polling stations had to wait for ballots af-

ter voting was supposed to start at dawn that day. In some districts, voters grew exasperated after being told they couldn't vote because their names weren't on official lists. And some voting centers were so badly marred by violence and intimidation that balloting was cancelled in 25 districts, forcing authorities to schedule a new vote for those areas. But about 2 1/2 months later, Pierre Louis Opont, head of the country's Provisional Electoral Council, says authorities have identified the weak spots, fired three staffers, and there will be no organizational disarray for Sunday's balloting. "We are sure that secu-

Guyana reports 'troubling' level of child labor

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A government survey found a "troubling" amount of child labor in Guyana, with minors engaged in prostitution and children as young as five working on farms around dangerous chemicals,

the Ministry of Social Protection said Wednesday. The study, based on a survey of 532 children and young workers, found many children engaged in sell-

ing produce in the streets and working in agriculture. It determined that kids "of all ages" are involved in prostitution, according to a summary released by the ministry.

"While the findings of the survey are troubling, the Government of Guyana, through the Ministry of Social Protection, will take urgent steps to address this problem,

since we are aware of the

debilitating effects of child labor," it said in a statement.

The ministry said it would create a special unit aimed at eradicating child labor, improve enforcement of existing laws by providing more money for enforcement and remove working children from the streets and ensure they go to school.

The survey was conducted in the capital, Georgetown,

and in the countryside in 2011 with the International Labor Organization.

An annual report on child labor released by the U.S. Department of Labor found that Guyana has made "moderate advancement" toward eliminating child labor but noted the government had not released the results of the 2011 survey, a fact noted by the ministry as it released the information on Wednesday. □

Cuba launches shark protection plan produced with US group

M. WEISSENSTEIN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba announced Wednesday that it is launching a long-term plan to preserve its sharks in cooperation with a U.S. environmental group, part of a rapidly accelerating partnership between the two countries aimed at preserving their shared waters in the Gulf of Mexico and Florida Straits.

Nearly a year after Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced that they would end a half-century of official hostility and start moving toward normalization, the most visible progress has been in the realm of environmental protection. The shark plan announced by Cuba after two years of work with the U.S.-based Environmental Defense Fund commits Cuba to recording shark catches by fishing vessels and eventually implementing stricter rules that would limit shark fishing and protect shark nurseries.

Secretary of State John Kerry announced in Valparaiso, Chile this month that the U.S. and Cuba were signing an accord to work together on protecting marine preservation areas in far western Cuba located a relatively short distance from Texas and Florida across the Gulf of Mexico and Florida Straits.

In April, a research vessel operated by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration carried marine scientists from Cuba and other countries on a research cruise aimed at gathering information about the spawning of blue-fin tuna, a commercially valuable and highly threatened species.

"That voyage opens the possibility of deeper relations in the future," said Julio Baisre, a marine scientist and vice-director for science of the Cuban National Aquarium. "We're hopeful, we're open to it. I think there are many ways in which we can work together." □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Share Sustainability:

The Green Aruba VI Final Agenda Announced!



PALM BEACH - The Green Aruba VI final agenda has been announced, and the lineup of speakers and events promises to be both insightful and outstanding! At this year's Green Aruba conference, to be held October 27th and 28th at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, the main theme will focus on sharing sustainability by together confronting the common barriers we face, identifying the solutions moving forward and creating the essential roadmaps to achieve our desired growth paths of the sustainability journey for our island nations.

Aruba has made remarkable progress over the years in the penetration level of renewables and/or efficiency at production level, with in 2015 reaching close to the 20% mark. With the ongoing and upcoming planned projects operational by the end of 2017, the 40% barrier will be surpassed by 2018! With our goal to reach 100% fuel free energy production by 2020, and in order to surpass the 40% level, it is fundamental to embark on a "deep dive" into our existing energy mix. Aruba is examining cutting-edge technologies and new business models

for our utility companies, all in conjunction with our RAS framework, to create a balance between Reliable and Sustainable investments. This balancing act will only be achievable if energy production costs remain Affordable for the customer base. Local utility stakeholders together with foreign renowned institutions are preparing for this dive known as the Aruba Renewable Integration Study (ARIS),

and will present their approach and concept at the upcoming conference. The ARIS will provide models that map out the road forward towards Aruba's aspiring renewable energy goals, while maintaining grid reliability and minimizing overall system costs, and can serve as a prototype or starting point for fellow island nations. Green Aruba is an annual confer-

ba also exhibits the experiences and knowledge of other institutions and island nations in this field. Over the past six years, Green Aruba has evolved into a practical and valuable well-known platform within the region for the exchange of information and applied knowledge on sustainable and best practices for the shift to cleaner, more environmentally friendly energy



ence born in 2010 with the specific aim to place dedicated emphasis on Aruba's energy transition to 100% fuel independence. Besides showcasing Aruba's progress and challenges to the accelerated penetration of renewables in the total energy mix, Green Aru-

sources and resources. Green Aruba VI will be closing registration soon. If you are planning to attend, register as soon as possible! For registration and any other information please visit the website www.greenaruba.org or contact: info@greenaruba.org. □



Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

ARASHI - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass.

Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery.

The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth.

Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf.

These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba. Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Graefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass.

The sea glass that was cre-



ated is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems. For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of



beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story. The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles. If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



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John and Mary from Texas Enjoy Tango Argentine Grill



PALM BEACH - John and Mary Watson from Fort Worth, Texas, know what they like when on Aruba. They discovered Tango Argentine Grill in the Arawak Garden 10 years ago, and since that time the choice where to go for dinner is easy. The couple, married more than 18 years now, is crazy

about the skirt steak and rib eye, two of Tango's best sellers.

Their evening can't go wrong at Tango, especially when dinner is served with a delicious bottle of Argentinian Malbec.

Eating indoor or outside on the terrace, Mary and John are enjoying themselves, as the ambiance,



the friendly staff and the live music make them feel very welcome. The couple is pictured here with their favorite waiter Juan, by the way.

All the staffers at Tango Argentine Grill, located across from the Occidental Resort on the hi-rise strip, want to say that they can't wait to see John and Mary, so come back soon, please! □



Loyal Visitors to Aruba Honored at the Marriott Surf Club

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Marriott Surf Club as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. James Monteleone of Staten Island, New York and Mr. Lamar and Mrs. Kathryn McMath of Chicago, Illinois.

James Lamar and Kathryn are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people,

the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, the Casinos, and just about everything else! They say Aruba feels like a second home



where the people are like family to them, and the Marriott is truly their

'home-away-from-home.' The certificates were presented by Ms. Marouska

Heyliger, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with friends

and family from the Marriott Aruba Surf Club. Congratulations! □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95. **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady delivers a pass during an NFL football practice, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, in Foxborough, Mass. The New York Jets are to play the Patriots Sunday, Oct. 25 in Foxborough.

Associated Press

Patriots' Brady says he wants to play '10 more years'

DENNIS WASZAK Jr.

AP Sports Writer

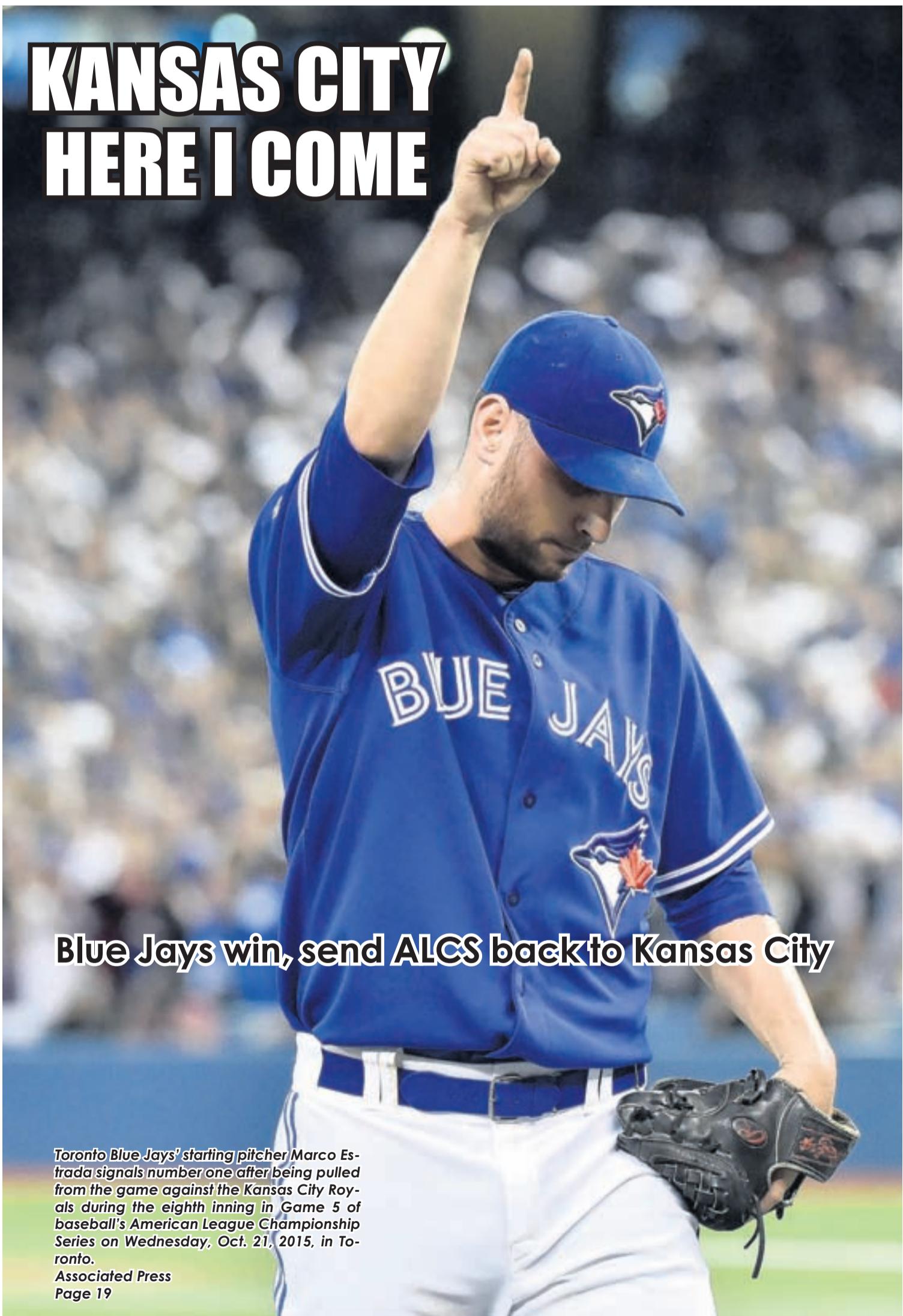
FLORHAM PARK, New Jersey (AP) — New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady says he has no plans to retire any time soon and hopes to play another 10 years.

"I'd like to play a long time, yeah, a long time," Brady said during a conference call with New York Jets reporters Wednesday.

"There's a lot that goes into playing well. I've played with a lot of great teammates, but I want to play for a long time. Maybe 10 more years. I think that's probably what my goal is." When asked if he was being serious about playing another decade, Brady insisted that is definitely his plan.

"Well, it's not always up to me," he acknowledged. "That's what my goals are, so that's just what I'm hoping. And it will take a lot to achieve that. Obviously, a team has to want you, but I think that's, you know,

KANSAS CITY HERE I COME



Toronto Blue Jays' starting pitcher Marco Estrada signals number one after being pulled from the game against the Kansas City Royals during the eighth inning in Game 5 of baseball's American League Championship Series on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, in Toronto.

Associated Press
Page 19

Continued on page 18

Bills practice in London with plenty of injury worries

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

WATFORD, England (AP) — No matter how far the Buffalo Bills run, they just can't hide from their injury problems.

The banged-up Bills (3-3) flew across the pond and arrived in London early this week after losing at home to the Cincinnati Bengals, a game in which backup quarterback EJ Manuel started and was inconsistent in the place of the injured Tyrod Taylor and the defense stumbled in the second half.

"We got to flush the toilet, so to speak, on one game," Bills coach Rex Ryan said Wednesday. "There's no question about it. We got to get better."

The Bills will face the Jacksonville Jaguars (1-5) on Sunday at Wembley Stadium in the second of three regular-season NFL games in London this year. The Jaguars are 0-2 at Wembley, while the Bills will be making their first appearance in Britain.

Ryan, however, still doesn't know who will be taking the snaps on Sunday.

"It's too early to tell about

his outlook," Ryan said of Taylor, who started the first five games of the season but sprained a ligament in his left knee in the 14-13 win over Tennessee on Oct. 11. "Obviously he's going through treatments and we'll see how he progresses through the week." Taylor said he was making progress and shared the reps with Manuel during Wednesday's practice. He didn't say if he was going to start on Sunday, however, but that he was getting himself prepared to play.

"It feels good. It's getting better," Taylor said of his knee. "We're in good conversation as far as how I feel. At the end of the day, it's up to the coaches to make the decision."

Besides the questions surrounding Taylor, the Bills will also be without defensive tackle Kyle Williams, who is out indefinitely with what Ryan called "a significant" injury to his left knee. Williams was carted off after being hurt late in the fourth quarter of the 34-21 loss to the Bengals on Sunday.

And receiver Percy Harvin is absent because of what the coach called "a per-



Buffalo Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor (5) is brought down in the first half of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2015, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

sonal issue," without elaborating further.

The injury to Williams is a big problem for a defense that has been struggling and

has so far failed to play up to its high-priced expectations. Williams is a 10-year veteran and respected team leader who has been

formidable against the run and pressuring opposing passers.

The Bills are already missing starting safety Aaron Williams, who is out until at least December because of a neck injury.

Cornerback Leodis McElvin returned to practice but remains on the reserve/non-football injury list. McElvin missed the remainder of last season after breaking his right ankle in November.

He aggravated the injury in July and had a follow-up operation before the start of training camp.

"We've had a ton of injuries, just a bunch of them, that's kind of offset us a little bit," Ryan said. "Right now we got to make do with where we're at."

"Did we want to have a better record? Absolutely we did. But we've earned the 3-3 record."

Buffalo has missed the playoffs for 15 consecutive seasons — the NFL's longest active playoff drought. And over that stretch, they've had just two winning seasons, 9-7 finishes in 2004 and 2014. □

Brady

Continued from page 17

I love playing this sport. I love making a commitment to my teammates and my coaches, and hopefully I can do it for a long time."

The 38-year-old Brady has shown no signs of slowing down. He's tied for second in the league with 14 touchdown passes while throwing just one interception. His 1,699 yards passing rank him fifth in the NFL, and he is completing 70.6 percent of his passes.

"It's a great mark, there's no doubt about it," he said. "To complete 70 percent is hard to do, but I would say it may reflect

on the quarterback, but to me, it really reflects on the entire offense because it's just, you've got to spread it around to different people."



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady smiles as he answers a question prior to an NFL football practice in Foxborough, Mass., Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015. The Patriots face the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday.

Associated Press

Brady's Patriots (5-0) take on the AFC East-rival Jets (4-1) on Sunday at MetLife Stadium. New England has the second-ranked overall offense, while New York

boasts the No. 1 overall defense.

"They're loaded with players and that's, I think, why they're tops in the league in basically every catego-

ry that you look at," Brady said. "So it's a big challenge, and hopefully we can nail things down by the time the game kicks off Sunday." □

Estrada leads Blue Jays over Royals 7-1

BY HOWIE RUMBERG

AP BASEBALL WRITER

TORONTO (AP) - Marco Estrada came up with a superb start in the most important outing of his career, stopping the Royals' hit parade and helping the Toronto Blue Jays send the AL Championship Series back to Kansas City.

Estrada pitched one-hit ball into the eighth inning, giving Toronto's tattered bullpen a rest, and the Blue Jays beat the Royals 7-1 Wednesday to close to 3-2 in the best-of-seven matchup.

"It's the start that we needed," Troy Tulowitzki said. "They're a great team over there. We know that. But this guy kept them off balance and allowed the offense to settle in and get some runs."

Tulowitzki provided three of those runs. He broke open with a bases-clearing double off Kelvin Herrera in the sixth, giving him seven RBIs in the series.

Edwin Encarnacion had walked with the bases loaded against Edinson Volquez, who seemed flustered by close calls against the Royals.

Kansas City had 30 hits in the first two games in Toronto, but Estrada faced the minimum 20 batters before Lorenzo Cain walked with two outs in the seventh. Closer Roberto Osuna was perfect in the ninth.

Yordano Ventura will start for the defending AL champions on Friday in Game 6 against David Price, the Game 2 loser.

Estrada, a 32-year-old free-agent to be, enabled his bullpen to rest, a day after Kansas City romped 14-2 in a game that saw infielder Cliff Pennington pitch in the ninth.

"This time around I had a better fastball command," said Estrada, who gave up three runs in the opener.

"That was the key to this game."

Toronto is trying to become just the 13th team to rally and win among 80 who trailed 3-1 in best-of-seven postseason series. It has happened four of 17



Toronto Blue Jays' Ryan Goins, left to right, Troy Tulowitzki, Jose Bautista, and Ben Revere celebrate the Blue Jays 7-1 victory over the Kansas City Royals in Game 5 of baseball's American League Championship Series on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, in Toronto.

Associated Press

times in the LCS, including when the Royals bounced back against the Blue Jays in 1985 en route to Kansas City's only World Series title. In this year's best-of-five Division Series,

Toronto fell behind 0-2, then won three straight against Texas.

Before 49,325 roaring fans, Chris Colabello's solo homer into the left-field seats in the second gave Estrada a lead. It was the only mistake by Volquez, the Game 1 winner.

Estrada didn't make a miscue until Salvador Perez homered with two outs in the eighth. Estrada retired his first nine batters, ending at four Escobar's record streak of leading off playoff games with hits.

Escobar, who entered 9 for 15 (.600), got Kansas City's first hit when he opened the fourth with a ground single past a diving Tulowitzki at shortstop.

Zobrist promptly grounded into a double play to second baseman Ryan Goins. "He was really good today," Escobar said. "He threw the ball down, down and away, down and in. He didn't miss many pitches today."

Kansas City had no other runners until Cain walked with two outs in the seventh. Price was up in the bullpen, but Estrada got Eric Hosmer to fly out. Volquez allowed just two singles after Colabello connected but lost the strike zone in the sixth.

Ben Revere led off with a walk and Volquez hit Josh Donaldson with the first pitch. In August, Volquez hit Donaldson in a testy game that included a benches-clearing scrum.

He then walked Jose Bautista in a 10-pitch at-bat on a knuckle curve that looked to get a piece of the plate.

"I thought the pitch to Bautista was definitely a strike," Royals manager Ned Yost said.

Yost shouted from the dugout for Perez to appeal to first base on ball four, thinking Bautista may have swung. But it was too loud in the closed-roof stadium for Perez to hear.

"We were trying to get their attention to get him to ap-

peal it," Yost said. "I don't know if he was arguing the pitch, I don't know what he was talking about."

Encarnacion walked on another pitch that upset Volquez and Yost. Volquez turned his back to plate umpire Dan Iassogna as Revere jogged home for a 2-0 lead. It was his last batter.

Herrera relieved and struck out Colabello. With the crowd chanting "Tu-lo! Tu-lo!" Tulowitzki sent a drive to the center-field wall, sending fans into a towel-waving frenzy.

Bautista and Donaldson had consecutive doubles off Danny Duffy in the seventh to make it 6-0, and Kevin Pillar doubled in a run in the eighth. □

Jaguars taking different approach to annual London trip

MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Jacksonville Jaguars have approached their annual trip to London several different ways.

They traveled early in the week following a home game. They flew across the pond after a road game. This week, they will arrive three days before playing Buffalo (3-3).

Although the details have varied from year to year, the Jaguars (1-5) believe they have a much better grasp on the irregular routine of being 4,200 miles from home. And they would like to finally benefit from it.

Jacksonville lost its first two games at Wembley Stadium by a combined score of 73-27.

"The last couple times it was straight massacres out there," veteran tight end Marcedes Lewis said Wednesday. "So we're trying to change that around."

The Jaguars, who have lost four in a row, believe making the overseas trek the last two years will eliminate any potential for players and coaches to be shell-shocked or awe-struck by London.



Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Julius Thomas (80) makes a catch in front of Houston Texans cornerback Johnathan Joseph during the first half of an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Fla., Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015.

Associated Press

"It's a great city, but the reason we're going over there is to play a football game at our highest level," linebacker Paul Posluszny said. "We can experience the city when we get a minute, but we need to make sure it doesn't affect anything work related."

Jaguars owner Shad Khan

said last month he expects to play annually in London at least until 2030. The NFL has an announcement scheduled for Thursday afternoon, and it could be for a long-term deal that will have Jacksonville playing one home game annually in London for the foreseeable future.

The Jaguars clearly want to be London's team. But they also want to make playing there as much of a home-field advantage as possible.

"We know we're going to go there every year, so let's take advantage of this," Posluszny said. "It's important for our organization, so let's do the job on the field and make it that way."

Khan calls playing in London the "No. 1 element to stabilizing" the small-market franchise. The annual trip, one of Jacksonville's 10 home games, including exhibitions, accounts for 15 percent of the team's local revenue. So there are reasons for the trip.

The Jaguars just need to find the best way to make it successful. They arrived two years back on a Monday, spent an entire week getting acclimated and lost 42-10 to San Francisco. Of course, that team had about as much talent as an expansion franchise and probably would have lost to the 49ers on any field on the planet.

Last year, they flew from Cincinnati to London hours after losing to the Bengals on Sunday. They were in London an extra day before the game, but it didn't matter: Dallas beat Jack-

sonville 31-17. Once again, it was a matchup of an eventual division winner and a rebuilding team.

This time around, the Jaguars are treating it much more like a West Coast trip. They're leaving after practice Thursday and will arrive Friday morning. They'll check into the hotel and then get on the field for some light jogging.

The team has mandated that players sleep during the eight-hour flight, even offering sleeping pills and suggesting eye shades and noise-canceling headphones. But the Jags won't know if the adjusted schedule makes a difference until Sunday.

"I've tried it many different ways," said defensive tackle Roy Miller, who will be playing his fifth game in London. "I'm kind of excited we get to stay here and go through our routine and just go there later in the week. When you get there early, you kind of get caught up in wanting to do a lot of things. For younger guys, that might take some focus away. Everybody wants to get around and see different things."

"We feel like we've been there before enough times that we know what we need to do." □



In this Friday, May 22, 2015 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson (13) moves past Atlanta Hawks forward Paul Millsap (4) during the second half in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs in Atlanta.

Associated Press

BY TOM WITHERS

AP SPORTS WRITER

CLEVELAND (AP) -- Already an elite rebounder, Tristan Thompson snatched a long-term contract from

the Cavaliers.

The restricted free-agent forward has agreed in principle with the defending Eastern Conference champions on a five-year, \$82

Cavaliers, Thompson reach agreement on long-term contract

million contract, ending his holdout and giving the Cavs needed frontcourt depth as they enter a new season.

The team confirmed Wednesday night that it had a verbal agreement with Thompson, who helped the Cavs get to the NBA Finals last season by filling in for an injured Kevin Love.

Thompson had been seeking a maximum deal, while the Cavs made it known they valued the former No. 4 overall pick, but weren't going to overpay for a reserve.

The sides had been in an awkward stalemate, which

threatened to carry over into the regular season. However agent Rich Paul, who also represents star LeBron James, and Cleveland's front office were able to come to terms less than a week before the opener at Chicago.

There's a chance the deal will be finalized Thursday and Thompson can begin practicing.

When Thompson declined to sign a one-year, \$6.9 million qualifying offer from the team last month, it appeared he might be willing to sit out part of the regular season. James had called Thompson's holdout a "distraction" and the impasse

over the contract threatened to sidetrack the Cavs from getting back to the Finals.

But now Thompson will back up Love and provide his usual energy for Cleveland's second unit.

Thompson came through in the playoffs after Love dislocated his left shoulder in the first round. The affable 24-year-old averaged 9.6 points and 10.8 rebounds in the postseason.

He averaged 8.5 points and 8.0 rebounds in the regular season.

Cleveland chose Thompson three selections after drafting Kyrie Irving with the first overall pick in 2011. □

Canadiens beat Blues to push streak to 7

The Associated Press

MONTRÉAL (AP) — Carey Price made 38 saves for his second shutout in his last three starts and Alex Semin scored his first goal as the Montreal Canadiens beat the St. Louis Blues 3-0 on Tuesday night to win their team-record seventh in a row to begin the season. Max Pacioretty and Torrey Mitchell also scored for the Canadiens, who broke the Blues' four-game winning streak.

Price, the league's most valuable player and top goaltender last season, has allowed only six goals in six starts. It was the 36th shutout of his career. He posted a 25-save shutout against the New York Rangers on Oct. 15, and allowed one goal on 22 shots in a 4-1 win over Detroit on Saturday night to earn NHL first star of the week honors.

His save of the night was a spectacular glove effort early in the second frame on Vladimir Tarasenko, who was held off the scoresheet for the first time this season.

ISLANDERS 3, BLUE JACKETS 0

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Jaroslav Halak stopped 37 shots for his 37th career shutout to lead the New York Islanders to their fourth straight win.

Nikolay Kulemin gave the Islanders the lead late in the first period, and Thomas Hickey, Cal Clutterbuck and John Tavares all scored in the third period. Halak made a second straight start after returning from an upper-body injury sustained during the pre-season.

The Blue Jackets extended their franchise-worst winless start and became the third team in the NHL's modern history to open a season 0-7. Curtis McElhinney finished with 25 saves and was steady throughout, making several key saves to keep Columbus within striking distance for most of the game.

DEVILS 3, COYOTES 2, OT

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Travis Zajac had a goal, two assists and set up Adam

Larsson's game-winner 43 seconds into overtime to lift New Jersey.

Larsson slams dunked the game winner to cap a 3-on-1 break that started after he knocked Martin Hanzal off the puck in the Devils' zone.

Mike Cammalleri also scored for New Jersey and Cory Schneider made 18 saves as the Devils won their second straight overtime game under new coach John Hynes after opening the season 0-3-1. Anthony Duclair and Mikkel Boedker scored for Arizona, which has lost three in a row. Mike Smith made 22 saves in the opener of a five-game East Coast road trip for Arizona.

PENGUINS 3, PANTHERS 2, OT

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Evgeni Malkin scored on the power play in overtime and Sidney Crosby picked up his first goal of the season to lead Pittsburgh.

Malkin's third goal in as many games withstood a video review. He took a pass from Kris Letang at the top of the right circle and fired a slap shot past Roberto Luongo. Crosby netted his first three points of the season on the first-period goal and two assists.

Phil Kessel scored his second goal and Malkin has five points during a four-game point streak for the Penguins, who won their third straight. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 31 shots. Quinton Howden and Derek MacKenzie scored goals for the Panthers and Luongo made 32 saves.

STARS 2, FLYERS 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tyler Seguin and Jamie Benn each had a goal and an assist as Dallas won its fourth straight.

Sean Couturier scored for the Flyers, who were playing for the first time since beating Chicago last Wednesday.

Antti Niemi made 34 saves to improve to 3-1 in four career starts against Philadelphia. Niemi was in because starting goalie Kari

Lehtonen is 1-10-2 in 13 games against Philadelphia.

Steve Mason made 30 saves for the Flyers in his return for the Flyers after sitting out the last two games due to personal reasons.

PREDATORS 5, LIGHTNING 4, SO

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Filip Forsberg scored the only goal of the shootout to help Nashville beat Tampa Bay. James Neal scored twice and Mike Fisher and Shea Weber also scored for the Predators, winners of five of six. Nashville's last two wins have come via a shootout. Predators goalie Pekka Rinne allowed four goals on 29 shots through overtime, but he was sharp in the shootout, denying all three Lightning shooters.

Steven Stamkos, Nikita Kucherov, Ryan Callahan and Erik Condra scored for the Lightning, who have dropped three of four.

In the tiebreaker, Forsberg skated to the right and beat Lightning goalie Ben Bishop with a quick wrist shot.

CAPITALS 6, FLAMES 2

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Nicklas Backstrom scored twice and Alex Ovechkin added a goal and an assist for Washington.

Andre Burakovsky, T.J. Oshie and Jason Chimera also scored, and Evgeny Kuznetsov added three assists. The Capitals, playing their first road game of the season, have opened with four wins in five games.

Sean Monahan and Mark Giordano scored for Calgary, which has lost five of their first six games while opening with four straight losses on home ice for the first time in franchise history. Ovechkin gave the Capitals the lead for good 30 seconds into the second period. His long shot was stopped by Flames goalie Karri Ramo but mishandled, allowing the Washington captain to poke in the rebound and put Washington ahead 2-1. It was Ovechkin's fourth goal of the season and 900th career point.□



Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price makes a save against the St. Louis Blues during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015 in Montreal.

Associated Press

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SAT 2:05 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:35 | 7:05 | 9:35

CHRIS J. MURRAY | BRIT SHAW
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION

MON-THURS 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40
FRI 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40 | 11:50
SAT 3:10 | 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40

BRADLEY COOPER | SIENNA MILLER
BURN'T

MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25
FRI 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45
SAT 2:25 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25

TOM HANKS | MARK RYLANCE
BRIDGE OF SPIES

MON-THURS 5:45 | 8:45 (PG-13)
FRI 5:45 | 8:45 | 10:45
SAT 2:45 | 5:45 | 8:45 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:45 | 5:45 | 8:45

JACK BLACK | DYLAN MINNETTE
Goosebumps 3D

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:40 | 7:00
FRI 4:40 | 7:00
SAT 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:40 | 7:00

LEVI MILLER | HUGH JACKMAN
PAN

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:30 | 7:00
SAT 2:05 | 4:30 | 7:00
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:30 | 7:00

MIA WASIKOWSKA | JESSICA CHASTAIN
CRIMSON PEAK

MON-THURS 9:20
FRI 9:20 | 12:00
SAT 9:20 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 9:20

EMILY BLUNT | BENICIO DEL TORO
SICARIO

MON-THURS 9:25
FRI-SAT 9:25 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 9:25

ADAM SANDLER | ANDY SAMBERG
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40 (PG)
SAT 2:25 | 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40
SUN & HOL 2:25 | 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40

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Serena Williams, Andy Murray confirmed for Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Top-ranked Serena Williams will combine with Jack Sock once again when she opens her 2016 tennis season at the Hopman Cup tournament in January.

Williams, who won the event in 2003 with James Blake and in 2008 with Mardy Fish, has been troubled by injury late this year, but expects to be ready for her now standard Australian Open preparation event.

World No. 2 Andy Murray will also head to Perth for the Jan. 3-9 event, partnering Heather Watson for Britain.

Troubled Australian Nick Kyrgios is will play in one of the host nation's two entries — Australia Green — while former No. 1 Leyton Hewitt joins Casey Dellacqua in Australia Gold.

After opening the 2015 season at the Hopman Cup, Williams went on to win the Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon, as well as reaching the U.S. Open semifinals.

"Perth definitely started something quite amazing so it's only natural, and fair and reasonable that I go back to Perth," Williams said.

"For me the Hopman Cup is super great preparation for the Australian Open," she added. "In 2016 I want to play doubles in Australia, so it will be really exciting for me to get there, play some doubles and get some little experience at the Hopman Cup."

France's Gael Monfils, as well as women's stars Lucie Safarova and Sabine Lisicki will also compete. □

Colangelo says next U.S. basketball coach likely from pros

The Associated Press

An NBA coach will likely follow Mike Krzyzewski as U.S. Olympic basketball coach.

USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo says Tuesday during an interview with SiriusXM NBA Radio that the "odds are that it will be a professional coach."

Krzyzewski was hired as U.S. coach in 2005 when Colangelo began the national team program and will guide the Americans into the Olympics for the third straight time next summer in Rio. Colangelo says he hopes to unveil his plan to replace him sometime soon.

The Americans had only been led by NBA coaches once pro players were allowed to be used starting with the 1992 Olympics. Colangelo hired the Duke coach, who has won two Olympic golds and two more world titles. □

Blue Jackets fire Todd Richards, hire Tortorella



Columbus Blue Jackets head coach Todd Richards reacts on the bench during a 4-0 loss to the New York Islanders in an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio.

Associated Press

CRAIG MERZ

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

John Tortorella hoisted a Stanley Cup in Tampa Bay and led the New York Rangers to the verge of a championship berth.

At woebegone Columbus, the Blue Jackets have a more modest goal for the veteran coach: Win a game.

Tortorella is back coaching in the NHL after the Blue Jackets fired Todd Richards on Wednesday with the team off to an 0-7-0 start.

"He's proven he's a good coach," said center Brandon Dubinsky, who played for Tortorella with the Rangers from 2008-12. "He's going to help our group. Unfortunately, it's going to be at the expense of a great person and a great coach (but) we got another one. We've got to step up for him."

Tortorella, who won the Stanley Cup with the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2004, has been out of hockey since the Canucks fired him in May 2014 after one season in Vancouver. He takes over for Richards, who had been with the Blue Jackets since 2012 and led them to only their second NHL playoff appearance in 2013-14, when they lost to the Pittsburgh Penguins in the opening round.

"One of the problems right

now is expectations," Tortorella said. "Expectations that weren't there last year with this club."

Columbus is just the sixth NHL team to open with seven consecutive losses after a 4-0 defeat against the New York Islanders on Tuesday night. It's the Blue Jackets' worst start in franchise history, and their longest losing streak since dropping seven straight in regulation from Nov. 11-25, 2005. "It was a tough start," right wing Jared Boll said. "Everything kept snowballing and losses kept piling up. It's still only seven games. We've got a lot of hockey. We can't hang our heads and feel sorry for ourselves and make excuses."

That's not the type of start that was expected from a team that restocked its roster this summer after closing last season on 16-2-1 run.

"We're not responding the right way," general manager Jarmo Kekalainen said. "By no means does this let anyone off the hook."

Tortorella signed a three-year contract and will make his debut Thursday when Columbus visits Minnesota. The Blue Jackets play seven of their next eight games on the road. Tortorella said he wanted to learn as much as he could about his struggling team.

"I need to listen," he said. "I

want the players to speak to the staff just to find out where they're at."

With a 446-375-115 record over 14 seasons, the 57-year-old Tortorella is the NHL's winningest U.S.-born coach. Tortorella coached Tampa Bay for seven seasons — compiling a mark of 239-222-36-38 and earning the Jack Adams Award as NHL coach of the year in the championship 2003-04 season.

Dubinsky, who butted heads with Tortorella at times in New York, said he now appreciates how the coach elevated his game.

"He got things out of me I didn't know I had," Dubinsky said. "He's helped my career and I anticipate he's going to help me career and help a lot of guys here, especially with the amount of young guys we have here."

For his part, Tortorella said Dubinsky was the first player he talked to when he arrived at Nationwide Arena on Wednesday.

"I need to lean on him," Tortorella said. "He's part of that heartbeat of the club. He needs to be a conduit between the players and the coaching staff until I get to know the other guys." Tortorella is suddenly in demand after his year off. Last month, he was hired by USA Hockey to coach the American team competing in the NHL's World Cup of Hockey tournament next year.

Tortorella acknowledged spending the past year soul-searching to determine what he might have done differently in Vancouver. It was a season in which a second-half collapse led to the Canucks missing the playoffs three years after reaching the Stanley Cup final.

"I have searched and looked at situations of what I could've done a better job there, and I do have some answers with that," he said. "So sure, I think you become a better coach when you dig deep." □

Key test for self-driving cars: A northern Virginia highway

MATTHEW BARAKAT

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Self-driving cars faced what might be their ultimate test Monday: I-95 in northern Virginia.

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute demonstrated its automated vehicle technology Monday on the I-95 Express Lanes, a stretch of asphalt on the notorious I-95 corridor that connects the traffic-choked suburbs of northern Virginia to the nation's capital. Officials at the institute and an administrator at the U.S. Department of Transportation said they believe it's the first time that driverless technology this advanced has been tested on an actual highway, though they acknowledged that research in the field is evolving quickly and not always easily tracked.

And the demonstration itself was highly controlled: It occurred at midday, when the Express Lanes were otherwise empty, as they were in the midst of the reversal process from northbound for the morning rush hour to southbound for the afternoon rush.

The specially modified Cadillac SRX wasn't driverless. Virginia law requires a driver behind the wheel, and the technology still requires a driver to be ready to take over if necessary.

But the self-driving car handled lane changes on its own and adjusted speeds to account for simulated traffic and construction zones.

Sen. Mark Warner, D-Virginia, participated as a passenger. His eyes widened



This file image, taken Oct. 1, 2015 from video, shows Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Senior Research Engineer David Taylor in the driver's seat with an electronic display on the dashboard for parallel parking assistance at the IIHS Vehicle Research Center in Ruckersville, Va.

when the car slowed on its own as the lead vehicle in the caravan hit its brakes. They widened again when the car shifted lanes with the driver's hands off the wheel to make way for a police vehicle with its sirens wailing as part of the simulation.

Afterward, Warner admitted to a brief "moment of terror" at the abrupt changes, but predicted that the technology is poised to take off.

"This is the next big, great, disruptive technology," said Warner, who made his fortune decades ago as a ground-floor investor in mobile phones and helped

found what became Nextel. Warner said the similarities between automated vehicle technology and the wireless industry three decades ago are striking. The test conducted Monday by VTTI involved what is known as Level 3 automated technology, sort of a midpoint between fully automated technology and no automation. VTTI spokeswoman Mindy Buchanan-King said Monday's test went beyond some of the other technology entering the marketplace because it allowed drivers to not only take their hands off the wheel and their foot off the pedals but

also let them take their eyes off the road for extended periods.

Technology debuted last week by Tesla, for instance, allows for automated lane changes and braking, but comes with a warning for the driver to continue paying close attention and keep hands on the wheel. The Virginia Tech technology contains some unique features, automatically shifting lanes to the right during the simulation when a state police trooper approached with sirens wailing. And the Cadillac automatically slowed as it approached a simulated work zone and traffic stop.

Associated Press

David Taylor, an electronics technician with VTTI, said the test went largely as planned. At one point during a lane shift the car over-shifted slightly, veering to the far right side of the right hand lane, prompting the driver to grab the wheel and take control, but otherwise it went smoothly, Taylor said.

The institute's director, Tom Dingus, said VTTI has no plans to market or sell its technology. Instead, it serves as a research tool for automakers, the U.S. Department of Transportation and others to help them study and develop their own products. □

Expedia's travel sites to list more info on airline fees

BELLEVUE, Wash. (AP) — Expedia's online travel sites are introducing tools designed to show the true cost of flying.

The features announced Tuesday will list the fees for checking bags and cancelling a reservation in addition to the ticket fare.

Those fees typically remain hidden until a traveler is ready to buy a ticket. Expedia is hoping the additional transparency will help its sites, which also include Travelocity, Orbitz and Hotwire, to stand out from rivals like Priceline.com's Kayak and Google's

extensive index of flight information in its dominant search engine.

Added airline fees have been a sore spot for travelers since American Airlines began charging to check bags seven years ago, but they are here to stay.

Baggage and cancellation

fees generated \$6.5 billion in revenue for airlines last year, a 7 percent increase from 2013, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The airline industry is fighting proposed government regulations that would require carriers to spell out

their baggage and cancellation fees alongside their ticket prices.

Expedia's sites also are going to analyze airline pricing trends to advise travelers when there are likely to get the best deal for a ticket to a destination on their business or vacation itinerary. □

Italian craftsmanship meeting Wall Street as Ferrari goes public

The Associated Press

Ferrari roared onto the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday and its shares, trading under the ticker symbol RACE, jumped sharply in their public debut.

The automaker, based in the northern Italian town of Maranello, had been a private company since its founding in 1929 by Italian sports driver Enzo Ferrari. In 1969, Fiat bought a 50 percent stake in the company, which it then increased to 90 percent in 1988.

For Fiat-Chrysler (the companies joined last year), the IPO raises needed cash and also helps pare debt at the world's seventh largest automaker, which has ambitious plans to expand its Alfa Romeo brand and other higher-margin luxury cars like Maserati.

There were questions, however, about how becoming a public company might affect such an iconic brand.

IHS Automotive, the consulting firm, said some filings suggest Ferrari might boost production from between 7,000 and 8,000 cars per year, to 9,000 by 2019. IHS acknowledged that it did not know if the company would devote any new production to higher-end models that cost well in excess of \$200,000 which already exceed demand or, like in the late 1960s and early 1970s, it would again start making lower-priced models to put the Ferrari within reach of more people.

"Whatever the strategy it chooses to enact, it will be keen to maintain the combination of mystique and profit-generating ability of this business," said Ian Fletcher, an IHS analyst.

In an interview with CNBC from the floor of the NYSE, Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and chairman of Ferrari, said he would not allow increased production to threaten the Ferrari tradition. □

Credit Suisse to cut jobs, raise cash as profits drop

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Credit Suisse says it plans to cut at least 3,400 jobs over three years in Britain and Switzerland and raise billions in a new share offering after its net profit fell 24 percent in the third quarter.

The Swiss firm on Wednesday reported net income attributable to shareholders dropped to 779 million Swiss francs (\$815 million), from 1.03 billion francs a year earlier, mostly because of an "unfavorable market conditions" in investment banking. Reve-

nues declined 8 percent to 5.98 billion francs.

Separately on Wednesday, the Swiss government announced long-awaited rules aimed to reduce "too-big-to-fail" risks at Credit Suisse and the country's other big bank, UBS. By 2019, the banks must maintain a leverage ratio of no more than 5 percent — up from a 3.1 percent requirement today. In essence, the new rules require the banks to hold more capital as a cushion for losses.

Credit Suisse, a broad bank but which has specialized in investment banking and

wealth management announced plans to issue new shares in moves expected to bring in over 6 billion francs.

Credit Suisse's new CEO, Tidjane Thiam, said the results "reinforce the need for a restructuring of the bank" to reduce earnings volatility and focusing more on private banking and wealth management clients. He said the results included a "resilient performance" in its Asian business.

"In the third quarter, difficult market conditions led to low client activity in both our investment banking,

and private banking and wealth management divisions," he said in a statement. "This translated into lower profits and was particularly visible in our fixed income sales and trading performance." Company spokesman Christoph Meier said Credit Suisse plans to reduce some 1,800 jobs in its operations in Britain and another 1,600 in Switzerland as part of efforts to achieve 2 billion Swiss francs in cost savings over the next three years. Most of the reductions in Switzerland are expected to come through attrition, he said. □

An early rally fades, leaving stocks modestly lower

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

U.S. stocks closed lower on Wednesday after a late-afternoon slide erased modest gains made earlier in the day.

The decline added to the market's losses from the day before and came as crude oil prices fell and investors focused primarily on the latest wave of companies reporting quarterly financial results.

Yahoo slumped 5 percent after reporting a sharp drop in a closely watched measure of revenue, while Chipotle Mexican Grill tumbled 5.7 percent after the restaurant chain's results fell short of Wall Street's expectations.

Not all the earnings news was bad. Investors bid up shares in General Motors, which climbed 5.8 percent, and Biogen, which rose 4 percent, among others.

Only about a quarter of the companies slated to report their results have done so. "As we get a fuller picture of how (third-quarter) earnings are going to wind up shaking out, that will give people more of a comfort level in terms of the directional cues in the market," said Mike Ryan, chief investment strategist at UBS Wealth Management Americas.

A roaring start to Ferrari's market debut and news about a couple of corporate deals also failed to



From left, Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne, Piero Ferrari, son of founder Enzo Ferrari, Ferrari CEO Amedeo Felisa, and Fiat Chrysler chairman John Elkann, gather for the ringing of a ceremonial bell as their IPO begins trading, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015. Ferrari's parent company, mass-market carmaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, is floating shares under the stock name RACE.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

keep the market from slipping into the red.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 48.50 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,168.61. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 11.83 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,018.94. The Nasdaq composite slid 40.85 points, or 0.8 percent, to 4,840.12.

The major stock indexes started trading higher early Wednesday, but lost momentum by midmorning. They drifted between small gains and losses until the last half-hour of trading, then veered lower.

Investors have been reviewing company earnings this week as they hunt for insight into how the global economy is doing.

All told, 104 companies in the S&P 500 index have reported third-quarter earnings so far.

Some 69 percent of those have reported results that beat Wall Street's expectations. That's better than the historic average of 66 percent, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Traders cheered General Motors' latest quarterly results, including strong North

American sales that helped GM overcome \$1.5 billion in costs from its deadly ignition switch problem. The stock gained \$1.94 to \$35.42.

Biogen also rose, adding \$10.53 to \$276.34 after the biotechnology said it will cut 11 percent of its workforce and disclosed that its third-quarter profit and revenue topped expectations.

Some companies' results prompted traders to sell. Chipotle Mexican Grill lost \$39.96 to \$665.67, while Yahoo shed \$1.71 to \$31.12. □

Coco-Cola's profit hit by strong dollar and repositioning

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coco-Cola's profit fell in the third quarter as the world's biggest drink maker booked charges related to its push to slash costs and reposition its business. The strong dollar also ate into its results. The maker of Sprite, Fanta and Dasani water said Wednesday that global sales volume rose 3 percent in the period. That reflected a 6 percent in-

crease in non-carbonated drinks, which Coke refers to as "still" beverages, and a 2 percent increase in sparkling" drinks, which primarily refers to sodas.

In North America, soda volume declined again, as Diet Coke fell 9.5 percent and regular Coke fell 3 percent. For years now, people in the U.S. have been moving away from sugary sodas, which have been blamed for fueling obesity rates and related

ills like diabetes. But more recently, diet sodas have been falling at a steeper rate, a trend Coke blames on concerns people have about the safety of artificial sweeteners.

Kathy Waller, Coke's chief financial officer, said in a phone interview the company is trying to figure out how much of the declines in diet sodas for North America are being driven by the shift to smaller cans and bottles. Coke has been

marketing the more petite sizes more aggressively as part of a push to position its drinks as more premium offerings. The idea is to push up sales, while accommodating people's desire to drink less soda. In the meantime, Coke's drop in soda volume for North America was offset by a 7 percent increase in non-carbonated drinks. Bottled waters and sports drinks each rose 10 percent in the quarter, Waller said.

Soda is still Coke's biggest business, and accounted for nearly three-quarters of its global sales volume last year. But its growth is coming mostly from non-carbonated drinks.

Earlier this month, PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi also noted in a call with investors that growth in the beverage industry is being driven by non-carbonated drinks. "I think focusing just on (sodas) is actually a thing of the past," Nooyi said. □

GM overcomes huge recall costs to post healthy 3Q profit



Final trim is installed on a Buick Verano at the Orion Assembly in Orion Township, Mich. General Motors' third-quarter profit fell slightly, but the company rode strong North American sales to overcome \$1.5 billion in costs from its deadly ignition switch recall, GM announced, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015.

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors' third-quarter profit fell slightly, but the compa-

ny rode strong North American sales to overcome \$1.5 billion in costs from its deadly ignition switch recall. Its shares rose almost 7

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

percent in afternoon trading Wednesday.

The Detroit automaker's net income slipped 1.4 percent from a year ago, but

still was \$1.36 billion, or 84 cents per share. That compares with \$1.38 billion, or 81 cents per share, a year ago.

Without the recall costs, GM would have made a \$1.50 per share, soundly beating Wall Street expectations. Analysts polled by FactSet expected \$1.18 per share.

The company posted a record \$3.3 billion pretax profit in North America largely on high-profit truck and SUV sales, more than offsetting a small decline in China and a loss in South America.

The news pushed GM shares up \$2.29, or 6.8 percent, to \$35.77 in afternoon trading Wednesday.

Chief Financial Officer Chuck Stevens said the GM's North American profit margin, the percent of revenue it gets to keep, hit a record 11.8 percent for the quarter. The company had set a goal of 10 percent

North American margins by next year, but Stevens said GM will achieve the target in 2015, a year early.

Revenue from July through September fell 1 percent to \$38.8 billion, but still beat analysts' forecasts. Almost three quarters of GM's revenue came from North America.

In China, GM reported pre-tax income of \$463 million, down 4 percent from a year ago, but profit margins rose from 9.6 percent to 9.8 percent because the company sold more expensive Cadillacs and SUVs. "China has not fallen off the cliff as everyone had expected," Stevens said.

South America, though, is still the big trouble spot for GM and other companies. The company lost \$217 million in the region, almost seven times the loss from a year ago, and Stevens said there isn't an end in sight to economic troubles there. □

Faster production of jets pushes up Boeing's 3Q profits

S. MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Reporter

NEW YORK (AP) — Faster production of commercial jets continues to drive profits at the Boeing Co., which saw earnings jump 25 percent in the third quarter. It also raised its earnings outlook for the year.

The Chicago-based company on Wednesday posted a \$1.7 billion net profit, up from \$1.36 billion during the same period last year. Boeing said it earned \$2.47

per share. Earnings excluding certain pension expenses came to \$2.52 per share. The results topped Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of nine analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of \$2.22 per share.

Commercial jet manufacturing is playing a larger and larger role at Boeing, also known for its military and space programs. Payments from the delivery

of new jets to airlines accounted for 68 percent of Boeing's \$25.85 billion in revenue. That also beat Wall Street's estimates; analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$24.74 billion.

In July, August and September, the aerospace company delivered 199 commercial jets, up from 186 during the same quarter last year. And more of those jets are expensive wide-bodies, such as the 787 Dreamliner. During

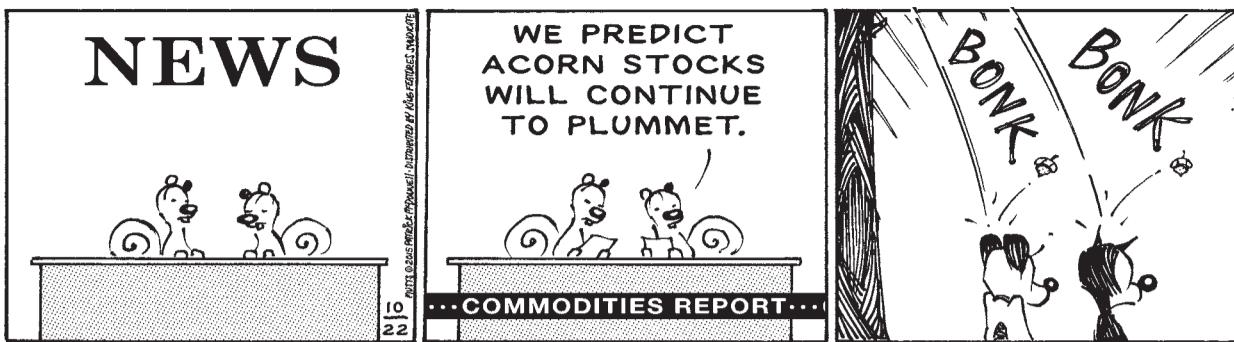
this quarter last year, 31 Dreamliners were delivered to airlines; this year Boeing delivered 37.

The challenge now for Boeing is to bring down the production cost of the long-delayed Dreamliner so it can bring in more cash and maybe, someday, break even on the plane whose development costs ran over budget.

The company raised its outlook for the year by 5 cents a share. Boeing now

expects full year earnings to be between \$7.65 and \$7.85 a share. Boeing still has a record backlog of new jet orders: nearly 5,700 valued at \$426 billion. However, lower fuel prices, a slowing global economy and the possible end of cheap interest rates has led some analysts to question how much longer this new plane buying spree will continue and if some of those orders won't eventually be delivered. □

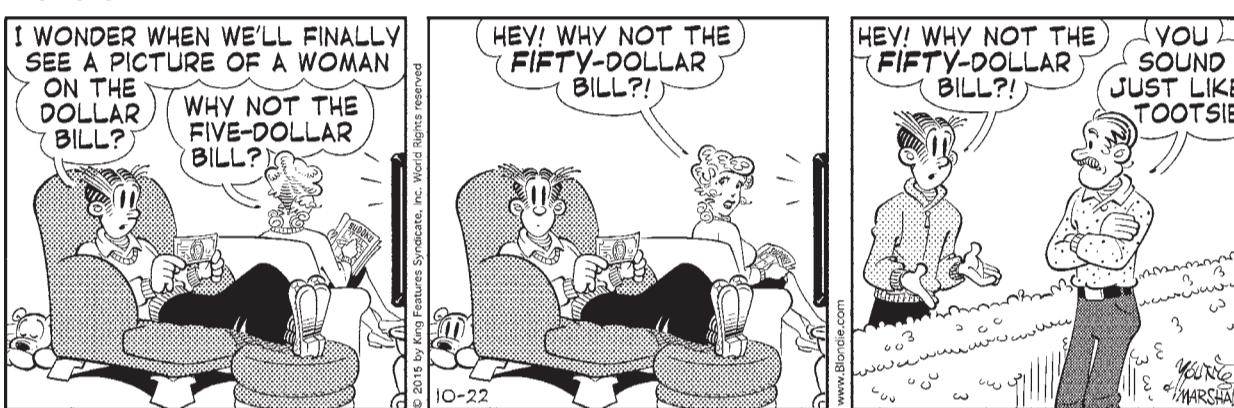
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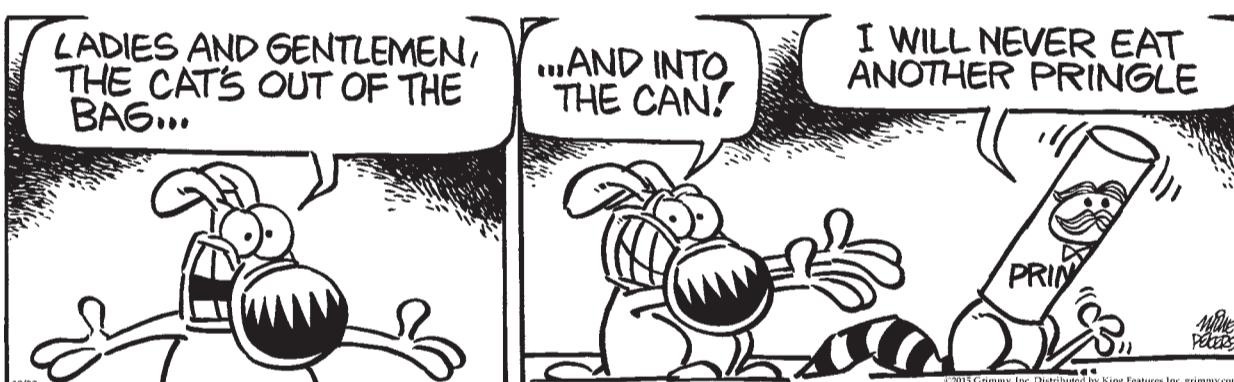
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			8		5
2	7		1		
9	3		7	1	
6		1			2
4					7
			5		
1		4		2	9
		2		6	8
8		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	8	4	2	9	6	7	1	5
6	9	1	7	5	3	8	2	4
2	5	7	1	8	4	3	9	6
1	3	5	8	7	9	6	4	2
9	6	8	4	2	5	1	3	7
4	7	2	3	6	1	9	5	8
8	4	9	5	3	7	2	6	1
7	1	3	6	4	2	5	8	9
5	2	6	9	1	8	4	7	3

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13		14	15						16			
17			18						19			
20		21							22			
			23						24	25		
26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33
34			35						36			
37			38					39				
40		41						42				
43		44						45				
		46						47				
48	49	50	51	52	53				54	55		
56			57						58		59	
60			61						62			
63			64						65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/22/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	R	S	P	Q	R	S	C	L	E	F
U	N	D	U	L	U	A	H	I	L		
S	C	E	N	T	A	I	M	S	A	B	L
H	E	S	I	T	A	N	T	S	O	R	E
N	E	C	K		P	E	N	N	A		
S	U	S	E	T	S	A	X	E	S		
A	P	R	S	E	E	P	S	S	A		
G	O	A	D	D	A	R	T	S	W		
A	N	T	I	S	R	E	E	K	S		
F	A	B	R	I	C	S	D	I	C		
A	L	L	U	R	E	B	A	N	K	R	L
B	L	I	P	T	A	P	E	D	E	R	N
L	E	N	T	N	E	E	D	S	O	L	E
E	N	D	S	P	R	Y	T	R	Y	S	T

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10/22/15

ACROSS

- 1 Can cover
- 4 Provide food for a banquet
- 9 Snatch
- 13 "Beehive State"
- 15 Home made from clay bricks
- 16 Run fast
- 17 ___ up; quit
- 18 Cuban dance
- 19 ___ mitts; pot holders
- 20 Ridiculous
- 22 Examination
- 23 Wordsworth or Longfellow
- 24 Many a time
- 26 Shooting star
- 29 Resident of Britain's capital
- 34 Vote into office
- 35 Narrow candle
- 36 Motorists' org.
- 37 Dip into water
- 38 Boston beans
- 39 Haughty self-satisfied
- 40 Wedding words
- 41 Actress — Pompeo
- 42 Napped leather
- 43 Porcelain items
- 45 Covered with a thin gold layer
- 46 Public transport
- 47 Stack of cards
- 48 News, for short
- 51 Getting smaller
- 56 Island banquet
- 57 Pass out
- 58 Part of speech
- 60 J-O connection
- 61 Say
- 62 Clinton's VP
- 63 Luge vehicle
- 64 Suspicious
- 65 Granola bit

DOWN

- 1 Drag; tow
- 2 ___ better to give than to receive"
- 3 Actor Annable
- 4 Occupation
- 5 Grown-up
- 10,000 __;
- Minnesota
- 30 Not locked
- 31 "A Boy __ Sue"
- 32 ___ cologne; perfume
- 33 Became furious
- 35 Powder, for short
- 38 Very happy
- 39 Moping
- 41 Large bird from Australia
- 52 Abhor
- 53 Ceremony
- 54 "High __"; Gary Cooper classic
- 55 Hindu teacher
- 59 Butterfly catcher's need

Argentina

Cotinued from page 11

Many voters seem inclined to stick to the status quo out of fear that a different kind of presidential administration could trigger unknown problems.

Scioli, the governor of the Buenos Aires province and a former vice president, has suggested he will continue Fernandez's policies but make small adjustments where needed through what he calls "gradualismo," or gradual change.

Like the other candidates, Scioli has been notably light on policy details, leaving voters to guess on many issues.

Unknown is whether he would seek a deal with U.S. creditors who took Argentina to court in New York and won. Fernandez calls the funds "vultures" and refuses to negotiate. In recent weeks, close aides to

Scioli have said his administration would move quickly to solve the dispute. But current Economy Minister Axel Kicillof has said such desires are based on "ignorance" and that it's "impossible" to simply reach a deal.

If anything, such contradictions underscore the considerable influence Fernandez still wields—despite the sluggish economy and several corruption scandals within her administration.

Early this year, the mysterious death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman threatened her presidency. Nisman was found dead Jan. 18, the day before he was to appear before Congress to elaborate on his accusation that Fernandez plotted to cover up the alleged role of several Iranian officials wanted in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center. □

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Doggie DNA study says Fido first appeared in Central Asia

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Where did dogs first arrive on the scene? Scientists have long debated that question, and now a study of doggie

DNA from around the world is pointing to Central Asia. Man's best friend may have evolved somewhere near what is now Nepal and Mongolia, researchers say.

September was record hot globally; 7th time this year



This photo provided by the XL Catlin Seaview Survey, taken in February 2015, shows coral after bleaching in American Samoa, when the XL Catlin Seaview Survey responded to a NOAA coral bleaching alert.

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — This past September was the hottest ever worldwide — the seventh monthly record set this year.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration calculated a global temperature for September of 60.62 degrees (15.9 degrees Celsius), beating the record set in 2014.

Seven of the nine months this year have broken monthly global heat re-

cords, tying 1998 for the most monthly heat records broken. This year, only January and April did not surpass records going back to 1880. Climate scientists blame man-made global warming and El Nino. This has been the hottest first nine months of any year. NOAA climate scientist Jessica Blunden said it would take a highly unlikely cold stretch the rest of the year for 2015 not to pass 2014 as the hottest on record. □



In this Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012 file photo, dogs play on a street in Lumbini, believed to be the birthplace of Buddha, southwest of Katmandu, Nepal.

Associated Press

Previous studies have suggested southern China, the Middle East, Siberia and Europe as the place where our first domesticated animal arose from wolves at least 15,000 years ago. For the new work, Adam Boyko of Cornell University and others analyzed DNA from 549 dogs that represented 38 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, India, the Middle East and islands north and east of Australia. The animals weren't house pets, but rather "village dogs" that wandered freely in the streets or fields. The researchers examined the DNA for signals of where the dogs had the

most ancient roots. That pointed to Central Asia. The analysis did not tackle the contentious question of when dogs appeared.

Results were reported in a paper released Monday by the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Even Boyko doesn't think the work will end the debate among scientists. "I'm not pretending my study alone is enough to rally the community together," he said.

He's right. Robert Wayne of the University of California, Los Angeles, who proposed a European origin for dogs in 2013 based on analysis of ancient DNA, said he didn't buy the conclusion about

Central Asia. In an email, he questioned Boyko's use of modern-day genetic material as a guide to the distant past.

Another expert, Greger Larson of Oxford University, called the paper "a major step forward" but said he also suspected that modern DNA isn't the way to go. Now that Central Asia has been added to the mix, "Everyone with a favorite region can point to at least one paper that supports their suspicions," Larson wrote in an email. Larson is involved in an international project to tackle the question with ancient DNA and anatomical comparisons. □

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Chris Rock to host ABC's Oscar broadcast next year

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chris Rock is coming back to host the Oscars for a second time.

The show's producers say the prolific comedian-filmmaker will be at the helm for the 88th Academy Awards on Feb. 28 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Producers David Hill and Reginald Hudlin called Rock

"the MVP of the entertainment industry."

The 50-year-old entertainer, who hosted the 77th Oscars in 2005, posted a photo of himself with an Oscar statuette on Twitter Wednesday with the caption, "Look who's back."

Rock is the only non-white Oscar host to helm the show in the past 10 years. The film academy has visibly increased its diversity outreach efforts since it was derided earlier this year for its all-white slate of acting nominees.

Rock has won four Emmy Awards for his comedy series and specials. He recently directed the comedy special "Amy Schumer: Live at the Apollo" for HBO. In 2014, he wrote, directed and starred in the feature "Top Five," and in 2009, he produced, wrote and starred in the documentary "Good Hair."

Rock created and produced the TV series "Everybody Hates Chris," which aired from 2005 to 2009. Other acting credits include the "The Longest Yard," "Lethal Weapon 4" and the "Madagascar" animated movies. He also appeared on Broadway in 2011.

He was a cast member on "Saturday Night Live" from 1990 to 1993. □



In this Feb. 27, 2005 file photo, Chris Rock hosts the 77th Academy Awards telecast in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Lamar Odom, Khloe Kardashian call off divorce amid recovery



In this April 30, 2012, file photo, Khloe Kardashian Odom and Lamar Odom from the show "Keeping Up With The Kardashians" attend an E! Network upfront event at Gotham Hall in New York.

Associated Press

CHRISTOPHER WEBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lamar Odom and Khloe Kardashian have decided to stay married as the former NBA star continues his recovery a week after he was found unconscious at a Nevada brothel.

Kardashian's lawyer, Laura Wasser, filed a petition Wednesday to dismiss the reality star's divorce filing from December 2013. A clerk granted the request

in such a way that the divorce papers can be refiled at a later date.

The document doesn't state a reason for the change, but it shows Odom signed off on dismissing the divorce Tuesday.

Kardashian has been by Odom's side since he was found in extremely critical condition Oct. 13 at the Love Ranch brothel in the rural community of Crystal, Nevada, and hospitalized in Las Vegas. He regained

consciousness Friday and was transported to Los Angeles on Monday.

Kardashian posted a statement to her website Tuesday saying Odom made "incredible strides" at Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center in Las Vegas and thanking the doctors and nurses "for their kindness and diligent work."

The hospital and Odom's relatives have not revealed his prognosis, but the family has hinted at a long road ahead, saying they realize his "continued improvement" won't be easy.

The brothel said workers saw him drink alcohol and take supplements sold as "herbal Viagra." The Food and Drug Administration issued a warning in 2013 against one brand he took, Reload, after it was found to contain sildenafil, the active ingredient in prescription Viagra.

He also told at least one of the women that he had done cocaine, but the brothel says it did not see him take any drugs.

Love Ranch owner Dennis Hof has said that Odom arrived Oct. 10 for a four-day stay and spent \$75,000 on two women who accompanied him in a VIP suite. □

Bob Barker treated for cut to head after a sidewalk fall

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former "The Price is Right" host Bob Barker took a fall on a sidewalk and was treated for a cut to his head and scraped leg, a spokesman said. Barker, 91, was out for his daily walk near his house Tuesday when he stumbled on uneven pavement, longtime friend and publicist Henri Bollinger said.

Two police officers who were nearby came to his aid and summoned an ambulance. Barker was taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he received stitches for the head

wound, Bollinger said.

He walked out of the hospital, said Bollinger, who drove him home.

It's fortunate that the injuries weren't more serious, his friend said, but Barker's exercise schedule will be temporarily curtailed.

"He's upset he can't work out and take his walks. Considering his age, he's in pretty good shape," Bollinger said. Barker was the longtime host of "The Price is Right," retiring from the game show in 2007 after 35 years.

He remains busy as an advocate of animal rights in the United States and other countries, Bollinger said. □



In this Nov. 5, 2013 file photo, Bob Barker poses for a photo on the set of "The Price is Right" after a special appearance that will celebrate his 90th birthday at CBS Studios, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Danai Gurira _ both zombie killer and thoughtful playwright

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Danai Gurira is a rising star in the theater, the author of powerful, often harrowing plays. When she's not doing that, you can find her chopping up zombies.

Gurira, an award-winning writer who explores African lives onstage, also plays the katana-wielding walker assassin Michonne on AMC's "The Walking Dead." Is the pen mightier than the sword?

"To me, it's all storytelling," said Gurira over tea and honey recently. "What I'm always looking for is a good story. If it's a great story, I will submit to it."

Both the battle-hardened TV heroine and the powerful playwright are on full-tilt this fall as "The Walking Dead" begins its sixth season and Gurira's play "Eclipsed," starring Lupita Nyong'o, thrills New York. It will transfer to Broadway this February. "I think Danai is really a phenomenal human being. She's got such a strong voice and she's so profoundly creative that she's able to create these really distinctive stories and characters. I'm just spellbound," said Nyong'o, who first met that playwright at Yale. Gurira's play, first produced in 2009



In this image released by AMC, Michael Cudlitz portrays Abraham, left, and Danai Gurira portrays Michonne in a scene from "The Walking Dead."

Associated Press

and making its New York debut this month at The Public Theater, focuses on four women held captive by the brutal leader of a rebel faction during the Liberian civil war. It gives Gurira a chance to explore an unseen world.

"I pick up a lot of scripts where the African women on the page were under-

explored and deeply underwritten. For some reason that was acceptable. And it was unacceptable to me," she said. "I simply find African women amazing and interesting and complex and fascinating and multidimensional. And I find the world doesn't seem to see that at all."

Born in Iowa to academic

parents from Zimbabwe, Gurira's family moved back to that southern African country when she was 5. She attended college in Minnesota and graduate school for acting at New York University.

She was a jock but also a huge reader, adoring "Beloved," "Roots" and Anton Chekhov plays. She also felt a connection to the African-American struggle and had a signed photo of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in her home in Harare. There may have been a little Michonne already in her DNA. "There's a part of me that's known as a bit of a lioness. I've never been shy. I grew up as an outspoken child," she said. "I know inside of me, if need be, there is a warrior."

One of her first plays was "In the Continuum," a play she co-wrote with a fellow graduate student in which an African-American teenager and a Zimbabwean TV personality discover that the men in their lives have infected them with HIV. Gurira, 37, went on to appear in the film "The Visitor," on HBO in "Treme," played Isabella in the 2011 Shakespeare in the Park production of "Measure for Measure" and was on Broadway in "Joe Turner's Come and Gone."

When "The Walking Dead" came calling, she laced up for battle. "I wanted to play an action chick one day," she said. "How often do you see comic book characters come to life that have dreadlocks and a sword? That was astoundingly fascinating to me."

Her plays have often explored African women in crisis but lately she's started to look at the fault line of race in America. Her next play is "Familiar," which will premiere in New York at Playwrights Horizons next February. "She's providing the African woman with voices she herself was hungry for," said Nyong'o. "She's telling our stories and giving us access to really, really meaty material."

"Familiar" finds Gurira in a more humorous vein, with a first-generation Zimbabwean family preparing for the eldest daughter's wedding to a white American guy. Gurira was inspired by her own family, the film "Monsoon Wedding" — and Chekhov. "I could see my own family and the absurdities of my own culture in what he was writing in 19th-century Russia." Gurira sees signs that America — led by a president with an African last name — is starting to embrace Africa and its varied voices. □

Grant Gustin gets boost of confidence in 'The Flash' suit

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Grant Gustin, who plays The Flash on The CW series of the same name, says something interesting happens when he suits up as the DC Comics character.

"I lose myself in it," Gustin said in a recent interview. "I kind of have like this disconnect between myself and The Flash.

... It's like my performer persona."

He enjoys shooting on the streets of Vancouver, Canada, while wearing The Flash costume because it gives him an extra boost of confidence.

"I just am a ham in the suit,



In this Monday, Oct. 12, 2015 photo, Grant Gustin poses for a portrait in New York. Gustin, who stars in "The Flash," spoke to Associated Press on how putting on his character's costume makes him bold and crossovers with the other DC Comics characters on TV.

Associated Press

and I have a lot of fun with any fans that will put up with me," he said with a laugh.

Gustin, 25, plays Barry Allen, who discovered he could move at superhuman speed after being struck by lightning.

He uses his abilities to help fight crime.

"The Flash," which airs Tuesday night (8 p.m. EDT), is a spin-off of "Arrow," starring Stephen Amell.

The two shows regularly have crossover episodes.

"They can be a logistic nightmare," Gustin said.

"I work 12 hours a day every day already on 'Flash,' usually. So, to be like, 'Oh, we're also shooting 'Ar-

row' this week,' it can be borderline impossible, but when we're on set, and we're all in our costumes, and we're doing the thing, it's fun.

And when it's the finished product, it's beyond worth it, and we know how much the fans love it."

"The Flash," now in its second season, will soon have its own spin-off:

"Legends of Tomorrow," about heroes and villains teaming up to save the world, will premiere next year.

One DC Comics show launching on TV that has no crossover plans as of yet is CBS' "Supergirl," starring Melissa Benoist.

Greg Berlanti, who is the executive producer of "The Flash" and "Supergirl," has said he wants "Supergirl" to stand on its own before any crossovers are planned.

Gustin said he would like to see that happen.

Benoist was a regular on Fox's "Glee" and Gustin was a guest star on the show, though they never had scenes together.

"I love Melissa, first of all," Gustin said. "I think she's a great actress."

... She's got an amazing work ethic, and I love that character. ... If both shows could stick around ... it could maybe be something that happens eventually." □

Judge dismisses copyright infringement case against Jay Z

ANTHONY McCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge on Wednesday dismissed a copyright infringement case against rapper Jay Z over his 1999 hit "Big Pimpin'" before the case was sent to a jury. U.S. District Judge Christina A. Snyder ruled the heir of an Egyptian composer did not have the right to pursue a copyright infringement claim. She did not explain her decision in detail, but told jurors she tossed out the case after hearing testimony from experts on Egyptian law.

The nephew of Baligh Hamdi, an Egyptian composer whose 1957 song "Khosara Khosara" is partially used in "Big Pimpin'," sued Jay Z, producer Timbaland and several media companies in 2007. Flute notes that Hamdi composed are repeated throughout the Jay Z song, and nephew Osama Ahmed Fahmy claimed they exploited "Khosara Khosara" without proper permission.

"We think it's completely wrong, and we'll appeal," Fahmy's attorney, Pete



In this April 16, 2014 file photo, Shawn "Jay Z" Carter announces the Made in America Festival from the steps of City Hall in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Ross, said after the ruling. The abrupt end to the case came after the rapper and Timbaland testified about creating the rap hit and their belief that they had valid rights to use the Egyptian song. It is rare for copyright cases involving major media properties such as films or music to reach the trial stage. Wednesday's ruling avoided a repeat

of a trial earlier this year when jurors awarded Marvin Gaye's children millions of dollars after finding the 2013 hit "Blurred Lines" infringed one of their father's hits.

Timbaland paid \$100,000 in 2001 to settle a claim about usage of Hamdi's song, which was written for a 1957 film, and testified that he believed he could

use it.

His attorney, Christine Lepera, praised the ruling, saying the hit-making producer maintained throughout the eight-year case that he didn't infringe on any copyrights to create the music for the rap song. Jay Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, also said he thought he had a valid license to use the flute notes for the song that became his first major hit single.

"My client is pleased with and gratified by the decision," Jay Z's attorney Andrew Bart said.

Jurors heard from witnesses who described contracts and copyright laws in both the United States and Egypt and music experts who offered dueling interpretations of how important the "Khosara Khosara" flute notes are to "Big Pimpin'."

The notes are repeated throughout the song, which is a raunchy ode to a promiscuous lifestyle.

Carter himself noted "Khosara Khosara" was credited on at least one of his CDs that Fahmy's attorney showed jurors.

"We have the rights as you can see on the bottom of the CD," Carter testified last week.

Ross has said the rap's lyrics are at odds with the love ballad that Hamdi

composed, but Carter's lyrics were not an issue in the case. Jurors heard the beginning of "Big Pimpin'" several times and saw a snippet of the music video, but the song was not played in its entirety during the trial.

The rapper performed at a New York concert to benefit his Tidal music streaming service Tuesday night, but did not perform "Big Pimpin'."

"For all of the drama expected to unfold in the courtroom, to have the court decide that the case should have never advanced beyond the courthouse steps is anticlimactic," said James Sammataro, a media lawyer with the firm Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. "In Jay-Z's words: 'Grand opening. Grand closing.'"

He said Snyder's ruling likely will limit the scope of an appeal.

It is the second time this year that a jury has heard a copyright infringement case involving a major recording artist. In March, jurors awarded Marvin Gaye's children \$7.4 million after finding the 2013 hit "Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams copied Gaye's hit "Got to Give It Up." A judge later trimmed the amount to \$5.3 million. The artists' lawyers are contesting the verdict.

Both cases showed the "music litigation world has become the Wild West these days," said Glen Rothstein, an intellectual property lawyer with the firm Greenberg Glusker.

While the "Blurred Lines" and "Big Pimpin'" cases were different and had vastly different results, Rothstein said they were expensive endeavors and likely will lead record companies to seek more licenses for sampled music to avoid having their work tied up in court.

"They're almost going to self-insure by paying more royalties upfront," Rothstein said. □

Cory Wells, Three Dog Night singer, dies in New York at 74

DUNKIRK, N.Y. (AP) — Cory Wells, a founding member of the popular 1970s band Three Dog Night and lead singer on such hits as "Never Been to Spain" and "Mama Told Me (Not to Come)," has died at age 74.

Wells experienced acute back pain weeks ago and died suddenly Tuesday in Dunkirk, where he had lived, bandmate Danny Hutton said.

"Cory was an incredible singer — a greater performer, he could sing anything," Hutton said.

The cause of Wells' death was unknown, Universal Music Enterprises spokeswoman Sujata Murphy said.

Vocalists Wells, Hutton and Chuck Negron formed Three Dog Night in 1967,

lifting the name from Australian slang for especially cold weather. They added a backing band as they became a top group over the following decade, specializing in covers of songs by Randy Newman, Harry Nilsson and Paul Williams, among others.

Dubbed the "kings of oversing" by Village Voice critic Robert Christgau, they patented a fervent, gospel-influenced style on such hits as "One," "Eli's Coming" and the chart-topping "Joy to the World." Band members took turns on lead vocals, with Wells' singing featured on "Shambala," "Never Been to Spain" and the No. 1 hit "Mama Told Me (Not to Come)," Newman's comic tale of an innocent man at a wild party.

Wells, a Polish-American with several polka players among his relatives, was born Emil Lewandowski in Buffalo. He joined the Air Force right out of high school and performed in local groups after returning. He moved to Los Angeles in the mid-1960s and while in the house band for the popular club the Whiskey A-Go-Go he met Hutton, a writer and producer at the time with Hanna-Barbera Records. Wells and Three Dog Night continued to record and tour, in various incarnations, right up to the present. Wells' death comes seven months after longtime keyboard player Jimmy Greenspoon died of cancer.

Wells is survived by his wife, two daughters and five grandchildren. □

InBev-SABMiller tie-up would include China's biggest beer

JOE McDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP)—A potential prize for AB InBev in its bid for SABMiller is a Chinese beer that is the world's biggest seller.

But any deal will face Chinese regulators who have barred the two brewing giants in the past from cooperating.

China already drinks one-quarter of the world's beer and is the focus of intense foreign interest because even with its economy cooling, demand is growing while Western markets are flat or declining.

SABMiller has a leading position with a 49 percent stake in Snow, a joint venture with a state-owned partner that sold 11.8 billion liters (3 billion gallons) of suds last year, or more than one out of every 20 glasses drunk worldwide. That could dramatically expand InBev's Chinese footprint, which already includes Budweiser, Beck's and Stella Artois.

"No one outside China knows what Snow is, but it is the biggest brand in the world," said industry analyst Spiros Malandrakis of Euromonitor.

Total Chinese beer sales are expected to rise 2.6 percent this year to 52.2 billion liters (13.6 billion gallons), or more than double the global forecast of 1 percent growth, according to Euromonitor.

Competition in China's crowded beer market is intense, which keeps prices low and profits slim.

Despite that, global brewers are buying or launching mass-market brands. Some hope to attract Chinese drinkers who might trade up to more expensive versions as incomes rise.

In China since 1984, InBev's Anheuser-Busch unit, the brewer of Budweiser, has 39 beverage plants and 26,000 employees.

SABMiller launched Snow with China Resources Enterprise, Ltd. in 1994.

Today, it has 98 breweries and says it accounts for more than one in every five cans or bottles of beer sold in China.

Other competitors include



A woman sits near an advertising poster for Snow Beer in a bar in southwestern China's Chongqing municipality. A potential prize for AB InBev in its bid for SABMiller is a Chinese beer, Snow, that is the world's biggest seller. But any deal will face Chinese regulators who have barred the two brewing giants in the past from cooperating.

(Chinatopix via AP)

Heineken and Carlsberg, Japan's Kirin and Asahi and Chinese brands Tsingtao and Yanjing.

In a reflection of competitive pressure, it was only last year that SABMiller said it collected its first half-year dividend of \$228 million from the Snow partnership. If Belgian-based AB InBev wants to keep that business, it needs to win over Chinese anti-monopoly regulators who have singled out both companies

for curbs on their activities to preserve competition.

As a condition of Chinese approval for its 2008 purchase of Anheuser-Busch, InBev was barred from linking its brands with SABMiller. Those also include domestic beers Harbin, Sedrin and Double Deer.

Both also are prohibited from buying any more Chinese breweries.

A merged company would control more than 40 percent of China's beer mar-

ket, according to Song Tao, an analyst for Guotai Jun'an International, a Chinese brokerage.

"That may trigger an anti-monopoly investigation," said Song. "If the deal fails to get passed, InBev has to sell its holdings in CRE."

Then CRE will face competition from InBev, and their future will become unclear."

Mergers between rivals in China run counter to the ruling Communist Party's

desire to make the economy more productive by promoting competition.

China didn't enact its first anti-monopoly law until 2007 but regulators have enforced it aggressively.

In 2009, they blocked Coca-Cola Co. from buying a Chinese fruit juice maker, Huiyuan. Regulators said even though Coke had no fruit juice brand, adding Huiyuan to its popular carbonated drinks might hurt competition in beverages overall.

Companies that want to merge are required to notify regulators if their combined annual revenue would exceed 2 billion yuan (\$310 million) and each did more than 400 million yuan (\$64 million) in business the previous year, according to Song Ying, an anti-monopoly specialist for the Anjie Law Firm in Beijing.

"The Ministry of Commerce will consult with some of the main stakeholders in this industry and maybe the relevant industrial associations to ensure that the potential merger deal will not put restrictions on market competition or raise the barriers to entry," said Song.

At the same time, brewers are scrambling to adapt as Chinese drinkers join their Western counterparts in migrating to craft beers.

Already, specialty brews including Stella, Hoegaarden and Belgium's Chimay and Duvel priced at up to 37 yuan (\$6) a bottle are sold in supermarkets in major Chinese cities.

"This highlights the speed of the sophistication of the Chinese palate," said Malandrakis of Euromonitor.

For a global brewer, he said, that means taking over a popular but low-profit brand such as Snow would be part of a strategy to guide Chinese drinkers to more expensive varieties.

"Essentially the consumers would drink Snow for a couple of years," he said. "And then when they move into the middle class, they would switch, the company hopes, to imported beers from its brands." □